

Minutes

Cascade Charter Township
Citizens PFAS Committee
April 13, 2023 at 4:00pm
2870 Jacksmith Ave SE

Members Present: Patti Baldwin, Kris White, Chris Noordyke

Members Absent: Grace Lesperance, Ben Greemann, John Lipford

Others Present: Township Manager (TM) Ben Swayze, Engineer Aric Thorne, Management Office Administrative Assistant Jessica Stine, Kevin Koster of Prein & Newhof, and Payton Novak of Prein & Newhof

ARTICLE 1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm.

ARTICLE 2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Member Noordyke, supported by Member White to approve the agenda.
Motion carried 3 to 0.

ARTICLE 3. Acknowledge Visitors & Public Comment

There were not any visitors who wished to comment.

ARTICLE 4. Approval of Minutes from the 2/2/2023 meeting

The spelling of Marci Thieme's name was corrected throughout the minutes. Motion was made by Member Noordyke to approve the February 2, 2023 minutes with the name correction. Supported by Member Baldwin.

ARTICLE 5. Update on Public Water Extension Project – Prein & Newhof

Representatives from Prein & Newhof shared that, for the 95 properties on existing water main, 82 to 83 of them have recorded quotes, and 70 have connected to the main.

For the next phase, approximately 100 of the 195 residences have reached out to the plumbers with 75% of the bids coming from McDonald Plumbing and 25% coming from Brik; this is mainly due to McDonald having a larger capacity.

Phase one began at the Burger/Goodwood intersection. The City of Grand Rapids performs the water and chlorination tests and then houses can begin hooking up to the water main. It will be a few weeks before testing and tie-ins can begin. If the dam drawdown doesn't work, it can not be reattempted. Water main can still be laid in the bayou if the drawdown fails but will be more difficult. For this reason, the bayou bridge will be down for a day but the crews will stay in contact with the township to keep residents updated on road closures.

Prein & Newhof requested residents send any contact information on landscaping and underground fencing companies they use to the Goodwood Water email address to assist in remediation. There is an internal site where all of this data will be stored.

Funding for phase two has been committed but the funds from the federal appropriations committee are still waiting to be disbursed; the City of Grand Rapids is working on this. At the start of phase two, the township will hold a meeting for the community to notify residents that they are now eligible to connect. Also, in the spirit of continued communication, now the construction will soon be underway, a project team with a mixture of township staff and project staff will meet every other week to discuss ongoing progress. An eblast will be sent out to the project email list after each of these meetings.

The first complaint about Brik Plumbing has been registered. A resident reported that Brik Plumbing started work on their property without their final sign-off; Prein & Newhof has sent them a notification that they need to make sure each step of the process is being completed before moving on to the next.

Members discussed size of the service meters and piping in relation to volume and pressure. If any residents have questions regarding what size pipe and meter should be installed at their residence, they should contact the Goodwood Water email address.

ARTICLE 6. Legal Update

At the last township board meeting, a settlement with the airport was approved by the board during closed session. At the end of March, the township board directed attorneys to work through an agreement with the airport. The airport has agreed to cover all PFAS remediation costs that are reasonable and prudent without releasing liability. If the airport doesn't sign the agreement by the end of April, the township can sue them to hold the airport responsible. In the approved agreement, the airport is not accepting liability. TM Swayze will check with the health department to determine any residences that had to replace their wells between the time PFAS was discovered in the water and they were able to connect to city water. The airport will reimburse these residents.

There is not a groundwater ordinance included in the airport agreement, so residences will not be required to hook up to city water. If their well ends up failing and there is now city water available to their property, there will be preventing their well and required to connect, but this was also true before PFAS contamination. If residents don't use their well regularly, the seal will crack and the well will fail.

The City of Grand Rapids completed a price study and determined that it will cost approximately \$220 more per year for a resident to irrigate their lawn with city water. A 'backflow' for irrigation systems will be considered part of the water project and an upgrade to include this must be completed to connect to city water. The township will also disclose to residents that the cost to residents to abandon a well after the project has been completed will be \$1,200 to \$1,500.

ARTICLE 7. General PFAS Update

TM Swayze met with EGLE Monday about the Hillsborough neighborhood because some houses in that area have now tested positive for PFAS contamination. EGLE does not believe the airport is responsible for this area of contamination. Three addresses have

tested above the safe MCL. Members asked if EGLE can fingerprint the chemicals to see if they match the chemicals from other known PFAS sites; TM Swayze will look into this.

In 2024, phase one roads will be repaved and in 2025, phase two roads will be repaved. This is dependent on the project phases running on time as it doesn't make sense to repave the area and then have it ruined by water project construction. Member Noordyke suggested bringing in a street sweeper because there is too much sediment on the road and in the air.

ARTICLE 8. Roundtable/Q&A

Members asked how residents will receive their mail when the road is torn up. TM Swayze said that he would talk to the post office and see what they generally do. It was suggested that residents sign up for the service that allows them to see what mail is coming before it arrives.

ARTICLE 9. Public Comment

There wasn't anyone who wished to speak at that time.

ARTICLE 10. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Noordyke to adjourn. Supported by Member White. Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.

Approved by the Citizens PFAS Committee – TBD