



Park Township

From the Desk of Howard Fink,

Township Manager

2/7/2020

Hi Everyone. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Water Utility

A large portion of the week was spent rapping up issues surrounding the water utility and putting the final touches on our communication documents in advance of the executive session on the topic. We will be sending out the Attorney client confidential communication on the issue on Tuesday, along with communication pieces and an agenda of the closed session meeting. Please take a look at the material prior, as this is an important and critical conversation.

Roads

It's that time of year when I do my annual street assessment and determine what approaches we are using on which roads. This year, I am attempting to take our analysis to a higher level. Initially, I intended to present you with a list of roads next week that would make up the bulk of our paving program. Upon reflection, I believe a better approach would be to enlist Soils and Structures to look at our program. I just finished meeting with them this afternoon, and they are going to get me a proposal on how they may be able to help us with various research and planning efforts.

Insurance

Every few years, we meet with a risk control agent to analyze our operations and provide suggestions on how we can mitigate liability. I met separately with the agent, as I was out when they were here for the day. We were able to identify a number of areas in which they were assessing our risk higher than our operations dictated. I am not sure if they will amount to premium savings, but it can't hurt.

Wendt Park

We have finalized our engineering contract on Wendt Park. For this project, our team set out to evaluate additional engineering firms other than Prein and Newhof. We chose Progressive AE for this project. While there is nothing that prevented us from using P and N again, it's good to have additional relationships and options. We look forward to working with Progressive on this project and hope that the new relationship brings new creativity and added value to the township.

Fish Study

This Tuesday, Steve Bulthuis, Keith Van Beek and I will be meeting at the MAC to discuss next steps regarding the fish study performed by Hope College. As a refresher, the township partially funded a study to look at the heavy metal contamination in fish in Lake Macatawa. The study found that some fish have elevated contamination levels, which was not a surprise. The question becomes, "what next?".

My understanding of the data leads me to think additional investigation and or discussion is needed. Not necessarily on fish contamination, but the level of contamination at the bottom of the lake and the extent to which the sediment is encapsulated, protecting old contamination from being re-circulated. The general question I have is what role do we all play in creating policies to minimize the disturbance of the sediment layers at the bottom of Lake Macatawa. Is this purely a state / EGLE function or some type of joint partnership?

Transit

We are in conversation with Dean Transportation to determine if they could be a viable alternative to MAX Express. I have sent Elisa over a request for additional ridership data in order to help Dean look at the feasibility and cost for such a service. Jerry, Jim and/or I will keep you posted on our progress.

Dangerous Buildings

We are nearing the deadline for Ms. Watson to file a building permit on the South Side Haunted House. I have asked Mr. Martin office to follow up with a letter indicating that deadlines are nearing. If the March deadline comes and goes (which I suspect it will), we will begin legal proceedings for a circuit court judge to order demolition.