

Joint Powers Board (JPB) Public Information Hearing Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 2017 @ 6:30pm
Carlton Civic Center

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Chairperson Bureau.

Members present: Kitty O' Hara Bureau, Randy Willie, Derek Wolf, LeAnn Theisen and Ken Witte, Recording Secretary, Carol Conway

Presenters: Tim Korby, Donohue and Associates; Ashley Hammerbeck, Donohue & Associates; Connie Christenson, Carlton County

Others Present: Tim Korby and Ashley Hammerbeck, Donohue & Associates; Diane Felde-Finke, Twin Lakes Township Board Chair; Sue Chapin, Twin Lakes Township Clerk
Residents: Larry Johnson, Ronald Johnson, Mike Orłowski, Barb Orłowski Gordon Davis, Gary Butala, Al & Anita Ninteman, Norman Gutz, Alfred & Ruth Nynas, Duane & Nancy Mrosła, Jane Willie, Helen Demers., Jan Poehls, David & Bev Drewlow, Stephanie Schmitz, Becky Walters, Donna Smith, James Smith, A.M Loy, Mike Schmitz, Patty. Miller, Gloria Witte, Randy Schmitz, R. Small, Burt Small, Brenda Chilson, Jeff Kimmer, Sharon Bragge, Bruce Gilchrist, Todd Bryant, Curt Oswell, Gwen Carman, Steven Schmidt, Justin & Cassie Mcivor, Ann Gustafson, Timothy Soden-Groves, Julianne Emerson, Jestina Vichorek, Penny Lauder, Bruce McBride, Julianne Ninteman

County Commissioners: Marv Bodie, Susan Zmyslony

Chairperson Kitty Bureau opened the meeting at 6:30, then turned it over to Tim Korby, Engineer at Donohue & Associates who gave an outline of the meeting.

Randy Willie explained the water line discussion started in 2000, with partial design started in 2004 the project came to a halt in 2009. In 2013 the discussion started again and the City of Carlton/Twin Lakes Township Joint Powers Board was formed in September 2014. The intent was to run the water line to include Olsonville, Highway 210 Corridor and the Carlton County Transportation Center. Schmitz Road was added due to the high levels of arsenic in private wells.

Tim Korby informed those present that the arsenic in the wells on Schmitz Road moved this project to the top of the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) 2017 Project Priority List (PPL). The project is #12 on the list out of 331 projects, being this high on the list puts the project in the fundable range. The residents in the project area will receive an income survey, from Midwest Assistance Program, that needs to be filled out and returned as soon as possible. If thirty (30) percent of the surveys are not returned, representatives from Midwest Assistance Program will go door to door. Grant funding is determined by median household income so the results of the income survey will determine the amount of grants vs. loans the project will qualify for. It is estimated the project will get at least a fifty (50) percent grant. The cost of the project is \$12.6 million.

Ashley Hammerbeck, Project Engineer gave an overview of the project design. The water line to be installed in Twin Lakes Township will be size for current use and for possible growth along Highway 210. The City of Carlton will be getting a new water treatment plant and an additional supply well. The current water treatment plant is a 40 years old and at the end of its useful life. The cost benefit of rehabbing the water treatment plant is more expensive than to build a new treatment plant. Also, a new plant would be more efficient and have new technology available for treating water.

The project will be paid for by State and Federal grant dollars, assessments, low interest loans, water access charges (WAC) and user fees. State and Federal funding sources are determined by the ranking on the PPL. One primary funding source will be from PFA and an application will be submitted to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development for grants and loans. Donohue and the Joint Powers Board will also be going after Legislative Appropriation Dollars. PFA and USDA work together to determine the amount how much residents can afford to pay for water and this amount will be based off of the median household income determined by the results of the income

survey. At this time the estimated water bill for Twin Lakes Township residents will be around \$50.00 per month, it is not known at this time what the water access charge will be. Depending on the median household income there may be grants available to help residents with water access charges. Assessment amounts for Twin Lakes Townships business and residents will depend on the amount of funding received. Assessments are usually over a 10 year period, but a 20 year period can be looked at.

A few locations have been looked at for a new water treatment plant, by the water tower, recycle center and the preferred location is out in South Terrace, near the tennis courts and community garden, on property owned by the school. This location is close to the aquifer and well. This would also enable a looping system to be installed in South Terrace.

Resident Questions:

A resident questioned if the flat rate will be the same no matter how much water is used. **The initial flat rate of approximately \$50.00 will include usage. Once meters are installed, the flat rate will be lowered, and then usage added to the new lower flat rate.**

Will fire hydrants be installed? **Yes**

Will we be required to hook up? **There is no ordinance place at this time, but once the ordinance is written you may be required to hook up within a certain amount of time. If you do not hook up, you may still be charged a base rate fee.**

How does this affect the City of Carlton residents? **City of Carlton residents will not be assessed for the water line being installed in Twin Lakes Township. The plan at this time is not to assess the City of Carlton residents for the water treatment plant.**

How does this affect a land owner with no buildings on the property? **If the property is buildable there will most likely be some sort of assessment.**

Will the City have enough water to supply for the project? **Yes, the well flow is adequate to supply water usage.**

When will construction start? **Target date is Spring 2018.**

If the funding does not come through will the project go through, do the residents have a say? **Yes, a Public Hearing and an Assessment Hearing will be held. You will be able to voice your support or opposition at those hearings.**

How far will the water line be run on Schmitz Road? **The plan is to run the line to the existing homes along the road. If property is available to be developed and the owner is willing to pay the assessment to extend the line further than the homes the water line can be extended. It would be less expensive for the property owner to have the water line installed now versus later.**

Will streets be torn up? **Yes, some streets will be torn up. Boring will be done as much as possible.**

Is there a risk of the City of Carlton's water supply being contaminated from Otter Creek? **No, all of the City's aquifers are south of Otter Creek and the water comes from the south.**

How many wells does the City of Carlton have? **One (1) primary well and one (1) emergency well.**

When would you look at going up the Halverson Road? **No plans at this time.**

For those outside the project area, will be assessed? **No**

If contamination is from the landfill, why is State not paying for project? **Hopefully this will help get appropriation funds.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Conway/Recording Secretary