

SUMMARY OF AUGUST 28, 2010 JOINT COLOMA CHARTER TOWNSHIP AND WATERVLIET CHARTER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING THE PAW PAW LAKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS

The meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock am at the Watervliet High School auditorium by Coloma Township Supervisor Ken Parrigin and Watervliet Township Supervisor Dan Hutchins. The audience was asked to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Hutchins introduced Bill Fahey of the law firm of Fahey, Schultz, Burzych and Rhodes, who represent the townships for this project. Mr. Fahey served as Moderator for the meeting.

Mr. Fahey briefly summarized the Special Assessment District(SAD) process and the notices required for this meeting. He then asked if anyone had petitions objecting to the project and the SAD that they wished to present. Petitions were presented and accepted by Mr. Fahey.

Mr. Fahey explained that the petitions would have to be verified to assure that the signatures on the petitions were complete and that the petitions represented at least 20% of the property area within either or both the assessment districts of Coloma and Watervliet. If the verification confirms that the petitions represent the required property area, the entire SAD process stops until petitions supporting the SAD that represent at least 50% of the assessment area(s) are submitted. These petitions may be submitted at any time with no time limitation and must also be verified. For purposes of this meeting, it will not be the first of two required Public Hearings because the Boards cannot vote on the first required Resolution until the opposing petitions are verified. Consequently, this meeting will proceed as an information and questions and comments meeting.

Mr. Fahey then read the names of individuals who had written to each township, expressing their support, opposition or concerns for the lake improvement project and the SAD.

Mr. Fahey introduced Larry Protosciewicz of the Spicer Group, the engineering company who has been working with the townships on the lake improvement project. Mr. Protosciewicz presented a summary of the project and it's costs. Highlights of his presentation are:

- The project will include three components. The first is a five year program of weed control using the chemical known as SONAR for the entire lake to kill the eurasion milfoil and spot treatments as necessary over the ensuing four years. Beginning the second year of the five year project, two four-year pilot programs will begin aimed at minimizing the amount of phosphorous that will be released from bottom sediments into the water column, thereby

substantially reducing growth of unwanted weeds in the lake. The chemical Alum will be used in one bay of the lake, and aeration will be used in another bay of the lake. At the end of the pilot, a conclusion will be reached about the effectiveness of each method and whether or not to recommend using either for the entire lake.

- The estimated total cost of the five-year project is \$943,000.

Mr. Fahey then presented an overview of the Special Assessment Districts. He stressed that what he was presenting were preliminary estimates and could not be finalized until after the first Public Hearing, whenever it is held. However, they provide a reasonable estimate of the size of the SAD and the amount that a property owner may be assessed. His comments are summarized as follows.

- There are approximately 1,129 property parcels within the two assessment districts.
- Waterfront single family parcels and condo units will be assessed a full assessment unit.
- Off-lake parcels with shared lake access will be assessed one-tenth of a full assessment unit.
- Waterfront commercial parcels, such as restaurants, marinas, hotels etc. will be assessed based on their size.

Using these criteria, Mr. Fahey reported that the preliminary, estimated assessments would be.

- Waterfront single family and condo unit owners would be assessed approximately \$210 per year for five years.
- Off-lake property owners who share lake access would be assessed approximately \$21 per year for five years.

Mr. Fahey explained that these assessments will be for five years only, they cannot be extended beyond that period. If a decision is made to use one of the pilot methods or something else after five years, the entire special assessment process must be done again.

At this time Mr. Fahey recognized that a number of members of the audience had written their names and comments or questions on index card as they entered the auditorium. He explained that he would call the names of each person and asked that he or she come to a microphone and state their comment or question. He assured the audience that everyone who wished to speak would have the opportunity. He asked that each speaker try to be as brief as possible and that the audience respect the right of all the speakers.

Mr. Fahey then called the names of those who wished to speak. A large number from the audience made comments. After all who had submitted card had spoken, Mr. Fahey asked any others who wanted to speak to come to a microphone, identify himself or herself and make their comments. A number of people came forward.

After all who wished to speak had done so, Mr. Fahey announced that there would be a short break.

After the break, Mr. Fahey read each question that had been submitted in writing and responded to it or referred it to Mr. Protosciewicz or the township supervisors for a

response. After all the written questions had been covered, Mr. Fahey asked anyone else who had a question to come to a microphone and ask their question. Several people did so.

After all questions had been asked and addressed, Mr. Fahey asked if there was anything else anyone wished to bring up. No other issues were raised. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Summary prepared by Joe Stepich, Watervliet Charter Township Trustee
November 22, 2010