

A regular meeting of the Gratiot Area Water Authority was held at the Alma Public Library and called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Kurt Giles. A quorum of the Authority Board was present.

Roll Call

Authority Board members present: Kurt Giles, Aeric Ripley, Roxann Harrington, Bill Leonard, Tom Reed, and Jim Wheeler.

Authority Board members absent:

Others present: Dave Ringle, Keith Risdon, and Doug Sierakowski.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Authority Member Reed, seconded by Authority Member Wheeler, to approve the Agenda, as amended. Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Aye: Giles, Ripley, Leonard, Reed, and Wheeler.

Nay: none.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Authority Member Ripley, seconded by Authority Member Leonard, to approve the minutes of February 11, 2022, as presented. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Aye: Giles, Ripley, Leonard, Reed, and Wheeler.

Nay: none.

Communications

Requests for Payment & Purchase

Recommendations on Bids

New Business

Unfinished Business

Reports

Chairman Giles reviewed the Water Production Report for February. Doug Sierakowski, Water Plant Operator, mentioned there was an increase in water usage for St. Louis, averaging about 200,000 gallons per day. This started at the end of February. Doug is working with St. Louis to see if there is a leak or something else causing the increase in water usage.

Chairman Giles reviewed the Financial Statements through February 28, 2022. Chairman Giles mentioned there would be a cap on increasing the water rates for the upcoming fiscal year at five percent. This should provide enough funding for the Water Plant but may have to be increased above the five percent when looking at the depreciation of assets for the following year.

Authority Member Harrington entered the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

Chairman Giles reviewed and commented on the email from John Willemin of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber to offer an update on the SLWSR project. Two bids were received for the project. The low bid was from Isabella Corporation from Mt. Pleasant, Michigan at \$2,450,000. J.R. Heineman & Sons from Saginaw, Michigan was the second bid at \$2,476,000. St. Louis will be awarding the bid to Isabella Corporation at the next commission meeting. Work will begin on demolishing the well houses soon and will hopefully be completed in late summer or early fall. All the well houses will be demolished except for three, two will be turned over to the schools for use and one will be renovated for the park.

Chairman Giles reviewed the Capital Improvement Plans for fiscal year 2023. Dave Ringle, Director of Public Services, offered comment on the upcoming projects. Some of the projects may not be completed for 2023. The list of projects includes repainting clarifiers, SCADA computer replacements, Lime Slaker replacements, one set of the VFD replacements, well 12 replaced, clarifier roof replacement, repair cracks in the masonry, and security upgrades. The security upgrades would include cameras, access card reader to enter the Water Plant, replace the glass doors, and install cameras on the water tower and the booster pump station. The estimated cost for this project is \$150,000.

Motion by Board Member Wheeler, seconded by Board Member Harrington, to receive the February Water Production Report, February Financial Statements, and SLWSR Construction Update. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Aye: Giles, Ripley, Harrington, Leonard, Reed, Wheeler.

Nay: none.

Appropriations

Chairman Giles presented the Claims and Accounts for February. Authority Member Wheeler asked if the chemical costs were going to increase or not. Dave Ringle said he was not sure on the rates but will try to supply more information at the next meeting. Chairman Giles mentioned the five percent increase in water rates for the next fiscal year would be enough to cover added costs for the chemicals if necessary.

Motion by Board Member Wheeler, seconded by Board Member Harrington, to approve and ratify the claims and accounts for February 2022 in the amount of \$129,819.38. Motion carried with a voice vote.

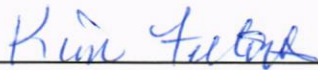
Aye: Giles, Ripley, Harrington, Leonard, Reed, and Wheeler.

Nay: none.

Public Comment

Adjournment

Motion by Board Member Wheeler, seconded by Board Member Harrington, to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Giles adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.



Kim Fellows, Recording Secretary



Date of Approval