

A regular meeting of the Gratiot Area Water Authority was held at the Alma Public Library and called to order at 12:01 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 Harrington, to approve the Agenda.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

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

Nay: none.

Approval of Minutes

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

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

Nay: none.

Communications

Requests for Payment & Purchase

Recommendations on Bids

New Business

Resolution 2022-0001
GRATIOT AREA WATER AUTHORITY
2022-2023 Operating Budget

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Gratiot Area Water Authority Board (GAWA Board) held at the City of Alma Library, 500 E. Superior Street, Alma, Michigan held on the 8th day of April 2022, at 12:00 noon.

Present: Kurt Giles, Aeric Ripley, Roxann Harrington, Bill Leonard, Tom Reed, and Jim Wheeler

Absent: none.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Wheeler and seconded by Member Harrington.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Gratiot Area Water Authority Articles of Incorporation, ARTICLE XI.C., the Board shall, prior to March 1 of each year, prepare, adopt and file with the legislative bodies of the Constituent Municipalities, an annual budget for the next fiscal year covering the proposed expenditures to be made for the organization and operation of the Authority, and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has submitted and filed with the Gratiot Area Water Authority Board (Board) a proposed estimate of revenues and operating expenses for 2022-23 fiscal year on April 8, 2022. Lateness of this budget being due to extenuating circumstances of time constraints and workload of available respective staff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board does hereby adopt the operating budget as presented and attached Said Total Operating Expenses being \$987,982, with total expenses including depreciation expected to be \$1,837,982.

Ayes: Giles, Ripley, Harrington, Leonard, Reed, and Wheeler
Nays: none.
Absent: none.

Resolution declared adopted this 8th day of April 2022.

Chairman Giles reviewed the proposed Operating Budget for FY 2022-2023. Dave Ringle, Director of Public Services, said that he would like to add \$200,000 to the budget for security upgrades for doors, card readers for entrance into the building and inside, and cameras. Glass doors would be replaced with tamper resistant glass. Eventually he would like cameras added to the well houses also.

Motion by Authority Member Wheeler, seconded by Authority Member Harrington, to approve the Operating Budget for 2022-2023. Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Aye: Giles, Ripley, Harrington, Leonard, Reed, and Wheeler
Nay: none.

Resolution 2022-0002

GRATIOT AREA WATER AUTHORITY
Wholesale Water Rate Change

Minutes of a Regular meeting of the Gratiot Area Water Authority held at the City of Alma Meeting Room, 525 E Superior St. Alma, County of Gratiot, Michigan held on the 8th day of April 2022, at 12:00 noon.

Present: Kurt Giles, Aeric Ripley, Roxann Harrington, Bill Leonard, Tom Reed, and Jim Wheeler
Absent: none.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Wheeler and supported by Member Reed.

WHEREAS, the Gratiot Area Water Authority has determined that all operational costs will be covered by rates each year and as much of depreciation shall be funded as possible without causing an unreasonable increase in fees.

WHEREAS, the Gratiot Area Water Authority has tasked its Finance Committee to recommend a rate reflective of such desires, and such committee has offered a recommendation of increase.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the Gratiot Area Water Authority Board of Directors will set the wholesale water rates to the cities of Alma and St. Louis at \$3.12 per thousand-gallon unit, effective with service beginning July 1, 2022.

Ayes: Giles, Ripley, Harrington, Leonard, Reed, and Wheeler
Nays: none.
Absent: none.

Resolution declared adopted this 8th day of April 2022.

Chairman Giles reviewed the Wholesale Water Rate Change for FY 2022-2023. Wholesale water rates will be increased from \$2.97 to \$3.12 per month. Water rates have been capped at 5%.

Motion by Authority Member Wheeler, seconded by Authority Member Reed, to approve the Wholesale Water Rate Change for 2022-2023. Motion carried with a roll call vote.

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

Nay: none.

Unfinished Business

Reports

Chairman Giles reviewed the Water Production Report for March. Authority Member Wheeler asked if they had found why there was such an increase in water production last month for St. Louis. Chairman Giles mentioned the over usage was coming from the Central Michigan Correctional Facility. The leak excess flow was found through retail metering and has been contained. Authority Member Wheeler asked if there was any way to monitor the flow of water to prevent this situation from happening again. Dave Ringle commented that smart meters will help monitor and will send an alert but, not everyone has the smart meters yet.

Chairman Giles reviewed the Financial Statements through March 31, 2022. No comments or suggestions were offered.

Chairman Giles offered an update on the SLWSR project. Approval from St. Louis was given to Isabella Corporation, who had the lowest bid, to proceed with the project. Keith Risdon, Public Services Director for St. Louis mentioned the bids for demolishing abandoned well houses will go out for later this month.

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

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

Nay: none.

Appropriations

Motion by Board Member Harrington, seconded by Board Member Reed, to approve and ratify the claims and accounts for March 2022 in the amount of \$77,480.65. 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 Leonard, to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Giles adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.m.