

A regular meeting of the Gratiot Area Water Authority was held virtually via Zoom and called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Matt Schooley. A quorum of the Authority Board was present.

*Roll Call*

Authority members present: Matt Schooley, Roxann Harrington, Bill Leonard, Tom Reed, and Jim Wheeler.

Authority members not present: Kurt Giles.

Others present: David Ringle, Keith Risdon, Kent Nothstine, and John Willemin.

*Approval of Agenda*

Vice-Chairperson Schooley offered an amendment to the agenda and moved that it be placed under New Business.

**Motion by Authority Member Wheeler, seconded by Authority Member Reed, to approve the agenda.**

**Motion carried with a roll call vote.**

**Aye: Schooley, Harrington, Leonard, Reed, and Wheeler.**

**Nay: none.**

**Absent: Giles.**

*Approval of Minutes*

**Motion by Authority Member Reed, seconded by Authority Member Leonard, to approve the minutes of July 9, 2021. Motion carried with a roll call vote.**

**Aye: Schooley, Harrington, Leonard, Reed, and Wheeler.**

**Nay: none.**

**Absent: Giles.**

*Communications*

*Requests for Payment*

*Requests for Purchase*

*Recommendations on Bids*

*New Business*

Vice-Chairperson Schooley offered the following Resolution for Bill Pilmore, Water Plant Superintendent. Dave Ringle, Director of Public Services, read the Resolution for the record. Board members and other members made comments in support and appreciation for Bill's service.

**Resolution of Appreciation**

**Whereas**, certain individuals give unsparingly and unselfishly of their time and talents to the City of Alma and its citizens and

**Whereas**, Bill Pilmore is one such individual who will retire on August 13, 2021, after more than 26 years of service with the Alma Water Plant; and

**Whereas**, Bill has been a hardworking, dedicated employee who has been very valuable at the Alma Water Treatment Plant. Bill's dedication, cooperative attitude and ability to get the job done, defined him, through his career with the city. Bill hired in with the Water Plant on December 5, 1994. Over the years he

continually proved himself to be an asset and became the new City of Alma Water Plant Superintendent in September 1997.

**Whereas**, during his tenure, Bill was an integral part of creating the Gratiot Area Water Authority and ensuring its success since its creation in 2012, which serves both the City of Alma and the City of Saint Louis. Bill has unselfishly made sure both communities receive the highest quality of water for both residents and businesses to use.

**Whereas, Now, Therefore Be It Resolved** that Chairman Giles, members of the board authority, City staff, and the residents of Alma and Saint Louis commend Bill Pilmore for a “job well done” and express their heartfelt gratitude and extend best wishes for an enjoyable, well-deserved retirement; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that this resolution be presented to Bill Pilmore and that it be entered into the official minutes of the Gratiot Area Water Authority.

Aye: Schooley, Harrington, Leonard, Reed, and Wheeler.

Nay: none.

Absent: Giles.

**Resolution declared adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021.**

#### *Unfinished Business*

#### *Reports*

Vice-Chairperson Schooley asked John Willemin of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber to give a brief update on the SLWSR. They are currently working on the internal quality control review and hope to have the 90% submittal of the well house project for review by August 27th or the following week. Once the water authority reviews the submittal, they can complete the permit review set. Upgrades for the VT Scada software will be reviewed to determine the costs before bids are put out. An allowance for the electrical and gas service provided by Consumers will also be determined soon. The radio testing by J&K Communications has finished, but it has not been determined if this should be added into the contract. John does recommend the updates to the communications system be done eventually. The hydro geological report will be submitted to EGLE for their approval. The state lab inadvertently missed some of the parameters of the samples which needed to be tested from Well #12. New samples will have to be taken 10 feet away from the original pilot hole because it was too close to the county drain. This can either wait until they get the pump in for the well or call Peerless to come in and take another sample for testing. The State Historical Preservation Office submittal was completed at the federal level and will be sent to the state historical office. Pending their comments and any changes to the permit, this project should be sent out for bids soon after.

There has been discussion about connecting Well #9 to the Luce Road watermain, which would allow the wells in the area to run in either direction up Luce Road or across the river through the park. This will provide more redundancy in the delivery of water. The well abandonment project is just getting started. There is at least one well house being turned over for private use. John is not sure if they need permission from EGLE to abandon the wells but will submit the paperwork just in case. John asked if the authority would be interested in continuing the well monitoring program, and if so, should it be renewed? Until Well 12 is established it is worth continuing looking at the ground water levels. It's good background data

to show residents and the EPA as to how the wells are affecting the long-term ground water levels. The residential monitoring program has around 10 residents signed up. They will be contacting residents soon and scheduling the test static levels with a local well driller where they can get at them and not have to hurt the existing wells. Vice-Chairperson Schooley asked if John had heard any feedback from residents yet for the well monitoring program. He has heard from two individuals, but no follow-up yet.

**Motion by Authority Member Reed, seconded by Authority Member Wheeler, to receive the July 2021 Water Production Report and update regarding SLWSR. Motion carried with a roll call vote.**

**Aye: Schooley, Harrington, Leonard, Reed, and Wheeler.**

**Nay: none.**

**Absent: Giles.**

*Appropriations*

**Motion by Authority Member Harrington, seconded by Authority Member Wheeler, to approve and ratify the claims and accounts for July 2021 in the amount of \$80,560.94. Motion carried with a roll call vote.**

**Aye: Schooley, Harrington, Leonard, Reed, and Wheeler.**

**Nay: none.**

**Absent: Giles**

*Public Comment*

Dave Ringle, Public Operations Director, introduced Kent Nothstine, new Water Plant Superintendent. Kent gave a few remarks and thanked everyone for the welcome. Authority members also gave some welcoming comments for Kent.

*Adjournment*

**Motion by Authority Member Wheeler, seconded by Authority Member Reed, to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Chairperson Schooley adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.**

  
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Kim Fellows, Recording Secretary

  
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Date of Approval