

# Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority

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## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Authority Board Meeting

1:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL:** Chairperson Harma called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Commissioners present were Lysanne Harma, Jimmy Stoneburner, Barry Bower, and Christina Hutchings. Also present were Executive Director John Crumb, Executive Assistant Anne Richmond, Field Superintendent Aaron Grogg, Engineer Paul Schram, Village of Augusta Manager Jeff Heppler, Cooper Township Supervisor Jeff Sorensen, and Attorney Rob Thall. Also present were several area residents.

**REVIEW AND SET THE AGENDA:** Crumb revised the agenda to move a Personnel Policy Change from New Business to the Consent Agenda. Stoneburner made the motion to set the Agenda as revised. Motion was seconded by Hutchings. **Motion carried; all ayes.**

**HEAR THOSE PRESENT (Non-Agenda Items):** Area residents spoke regarding potential future plans for a water system around Gull Lake and requested more communication and transparency from the GLSWA Board. Residents also questioned the reason Cooper Township was now joining the GLSWA Board.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Bower and seconded by Stoneburner to approve the consent agenda. **Motion carried; all ayes.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

ADT Video Surveillance & Fire/Intrusion Systems Motion  
Crumb reviewed a proposal by EPS for a Video Surveillance System and a Fire/Intrusion System for GLSWA. There is a one-time installation cost of \$15,000 and a monthly service charge of \$180. A motion was made by Hutchings and seconded by Bower to approve the EPS proposal as reviewed. **Motion carried; all ayes.**

## Meeting Schedule Amendment

## Motion

The previously scheduled March Board Meeting conflicted with the March Board of Review for the Townships. A motion was made by Stoneburner to change the March Board Meeting to March 9. Motion was seconded by Hutchings. **Motion carried; all ayes.**

## Highpoint Bank Account Agreement Addendum

## Motion

GLSWA received an Account Agreement Addendum from Highpoint Bank involving arbitration. Attorney Thall recommended that the Authority not rescind its rights and decline arbitration. A motion was made by Stoneburner and seconded by Hutchings to accept Attorney Thall's recommendation and decline arbitration. **Motion carried; all ayes.**

## Cooper Township Contract

## Motion

Crumb shared the history of GLSWA's 20-year relationship with Cooper Township. GLSWA currently performs operations and maintenance for Cooper Township's sewer assets and bills Cooper Township residents for sewer. Cooper Township does not have a public works department. As the current contract is going to expire and GLSWA provides a high level of service, Cooper Township believes it is in the best interest of Cooper Township residents to transfer its sewer assets to the Authority and become a constituent member of GLSWA's Board. A motion was made by Stoneburner to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Cooper Township to join GLSWA and transfer its sewer assets to GLSWA. Motion was seconded by Bower. **Roll Call Vote: Hutchings-aye; Bower-aye; Stoneburner-aye; Harma-aye; Motion carried.**

Attorney Thall will create an Amendment to the Authority's Articles of Incorporation to add Cooper Township as a constituent member of GLSWA. If this amendment is approved by each of the four current member Township Boards, Cooper Township then becomes another voting member of the GLSWA Board and Cooper Township sewer assets will transfer to GLSWA. Crumb plans to present the Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation to the Township Boards at their February meetings for approval.

## Connection Fee

## Motion

GLSWA's rate consultant recommended that the Authority revise the sewer connection fee to be one flat fee. The current calculation is \$2,955, however, that is before adding Cooper Township sewer assets. Factoring this in, Crumb estimates the sewer connection fee to be \$3,250. A motion was made by Stoneburner and seconded by Bower, based on the recommendation of the rate consultant, to set the sewer connection fee for GLSWA at \$3,250. **Roll Call Vote: Stoneburner-aye; Hutchings-aye; Bower-aye; Harma-aye; Motion carried.**

## Connection Fee Financing

## Motion

A motion was made by Bower to allow the sewer connection fee to be financed at 3% interest payable in installments over 5 years. Motion was seconded by Stoneburner.

**Roll Call Vote: Stoneburner-aye; Hutchings-aye; Bower-aye; Harma-aye; Motion carried.**

A contract would be required, and a lien would be placed on the property. The amount outstanding would be due on the sale of the home.

Rate Increase

Motion

A motion was made by Hutchings and seconded by Stoneburner to accept the rate consultant's recommendation and set the Authority's quarterly sewer rates for the next three years as follows: \$120/qtr. \$129/qtr. \$138/qtr. **Roll Call Vote:**

**Stoneburner-aye; Hutchings-aye; Bower-aye; Harma-aye; Motion carried.**

Crumb noted that GLSWA will bring the rate consultant back in 2 years to evaluate the impact of the added Sherman Lake sewer connections and Cooper Township sewer assets. Crumb plans to present the Rate Resolution including the revised sewer connection fee and rate increase at each of the Township/Village Board Meetings in February for approval.

Sherman Lake Grinder Update

Motion

Crumb shared a summary of take-aways from the 1/11/2022 Sherman Lake Sewer Connection Meeting. Twenty-six homes were represented. Crumb will begin communication in the next week with the people that were not able to attend the meeting. On-site visits to provide Good Faith sewer connection estimates are proceeding.

The Sherman Lake Association may try to get grants. As this would impact the dollar amount to be bonded for, an extension to the time to connect to sewer may be necessary. The extension would only apply to SAD participants.

As Attorney Thall represents both Ross Township and GLSWA, a conflict waiver may be necessary at the point there are contracts between Ross Township and GLSWA.

A motion was made by Stoneburner and seconded by Bower to allow the Authority Attorney and Director to engage Bond Council and a Financial Advisor for the SAD.

**Roll Call Vote: Bower-aye; Hutchings-aye; Harma-aye; Stoneburner-aye; Motion carried.**

AT&T Damage Claim Update

Motion

The Authority's insurance agent is handling this dispute. The resolution will be documented for audit purposes if no credit memo is generated.

M96 Pipe Rehab Update

Motion

The pipe was cleaned successfully with no observed breach. The Authority is waiting on the permit from MDOT/Amtrak. Contingency plans were discussed should there be a problem.

Board Elections

Motion

A motion was made by Stoneburner and seconded by Hutchings to maintain current Board Member positions for 2022. **Motion carried; all ayes.** Lysanne Harma is the Chairperson, Christina Hutchings is the Vice Chairperson, and Jim Stoneburner is the Treasurer/Secretary.

**OLD BUSINESS: On Going**

Projected

Crumb noted there had been no change to Old Business since the last meeting. Commissioner Hutchings asked for more information regarding the Water Initiative as she is receiving many questions from her residents. Crumb reviewed the Water Initiative History. He reiterated that the Water Advisory Committee is an advisory committee with no power to make decisions and there is no current Water Project. The Water Advisory Committee will bring their recommendation to the GLSWA Board when they are ready, and any decision will be made at that time in an open Board Meeting.

**CLOSING COMMENTS**

Bower reported that Barry Township has received many grants, including 1.4 million for a water tower.

Harma has found attending UPC (Utility Policy Committee) Meetings to be informative. Richland Township approved a 5-Year Recreation Plan.

Hutchings reported that an apartment complex will be developed across from the Ross Township Hall.

Crumb reported that GLSWA may become the owner of a small public water system. Crumb is considering better methods of sharing information and combatting false information including FAQ on our website, updates mailed with bills, or a Facebook site.

Executive Assistant Richmond shared plans to retire.

**ADJOURN.**


Stoneburner made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Hutchings. **Motion carried; all ayes.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022 1:30 P.M.

Submitted for approval

  
Jimmy Stoneburner – Secretary