

# **Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority**

1

7722 N. 37<sup>th</sup> Street  
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## **MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8, 2012 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

(meeting moved from Feb 23 to Mar 8)

Authority Board Meeting

10:00 A.M.

**CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL:** Chairman Bither called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Commissioners present were Jeff Bither, Jackie Light, Jimmy Stoneburner and Wes Kahler. None absent. Also present were Director Rich Pierson and Administrative Assistant Anne Richmond.

**REVIEW AND SET THE AGENDA:** Stoneburner made the motion to accept the Agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Light. **Motion carried; all ayes.**

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19<sup>th</sup> REGULAR BOARD MEETING:** A motion was made by Light and seconded by Kahler to accept the regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried; all ayes.**

**HEAR THOSE PRESENT (Non-Agenda Items):** None Present.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Pierson reviewed the following correspondence:

To: Arbor Terrace                      Excessive Grease Build-up at Lift Station 28  
Arbor Terrace was notified of excessive grease build-up at Lift Station 28 installed on their property and advised to minimize it to avoid being invoiced for excess grease removal and maintenance costs.

To: Phil Anglin-Richland Pub              Grease Build-up in Manhole  
Recently, we noted excessive grease build-up in the public sewer manhole in the road right-of-way in front of the Richland Pub. Mr. Anglin was informed that we will inspect the Richland Pub manhole on an annual basis to determine the extent of the problem the Pub is causing and determine if having the Pub paying annually to clean the manhole is an appropriate course of action.

To: Robert Underwood, 2400 N. 37<sup>th</sup> Street              Possible Connection  
Mr. Underwood was provided a good faith estimate for a grinder pump sewer connection.

To: Paul Spitzley, Kal. Co. Road Comm.              Greer Drive-New Culvert Installation  
GLSWA has been working with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission on the new culvert they will be installing on 37<sup>th</sup> Street at Greer Drive. GLSWA excavated with a vactor truck to precisely locate and inspect our pipe and preliminarily we believe our

forcemain does not require relocation and the Road Commission can design around it. Tom Wheat will track this and work with the Road Commission on this.

To: Mr. Michael Sharp

## Post Card Billing Complaint

Mr. Sharp has had an ongoing problem receiving his post card billing. We advised him that we expect to upgrade our billing software late 2012-early 2013 and will include in our budget request the abandonment of the post card system.

To: Mr. Kevin Miller

### Lift Station #16-Future Replacement

Mr. Miller was advised of our interest in expanding our Lift Station #16 located on Marina property next to 12478 E. D Avenue. It is our understanding that the Marina has a standing offer to purchase 12478 E. D Avenue. The Lift Station expansion is not possible without additional land area, and we are hopeful if the Marina acquires 12478 E. D Avenue we could negotiate a fair price for a 30 x 40 piece of land to expand our lift station.

To: Mr. Ron Kruzman

### Complaint About Cost of Sewer Service

Mr. Kruzman recently sent a note regarding “the outrageous cost for sewer service”. He was advised that he is being charged an additional \$39 per quarter for the ‘guest cottage’ that was connected to the public sewer along with the main dwelling in late 2002 and that we could lower his bill to \$89 per quarter if he is no longer using this.

To: Mrs. Patricia Cook

### Copper Sulfate Addition for Algae Control

A letter was written to Mrs. Cook to document the observations about her sump pump system after our visit on February 13th. She was advised by B-Dry to add copper sulfate as an algacide to keep the drainage system flowing properly.

Fr: Mrs. Patricia Cook

## Clarification + Response

Mrs. Cook clarified that the prior owner also treated the B-Dry system with copper sulfate and her understanding is that it has always been required.

To: Marcus Tironi

DEQ E-Mail Regarding Copper Sulfate

Mrs. Cook was advised by Mr. Leanin at the DEQ not to discharge water containing copper sulfate into the side yard or the lake. Marcus Tironi of the DEQ was contacted to discuss this further. The only option may be to meter the water discharge from the sump pump and possibly also meter the well and bill Mrs. Cook based on total gallons. *Pierson to discuss options with Attorney Sparks.*

Fr: Dale Stiemsma

### Copper Sulfate Addition - Information

Mr. Stiemsma provided additional information on the addition of copper sulfate to B-dry systems. The number of systems that require it is low (less than 1%). The amount added is 1 cup full in cleanouts during the summer months.

Fr: Robert Konyndyk-State Plumbing Chief Commercial Code Applicability

Mr. Konyndyk responded to our request for further clarification on the term Storm Water (includes rain water from roofs, surface water, and subsurface water) and what

should be done if the plumber can't find the appropriate information in the Residential Code ("you have the authority to apply the Michigan Plumbing Code viewed as the Commercial Code").

## UTILITY SERVICE REPORT – Update

Lawicki-Sewer Lead Issue	Dug up 37 <sup>th</sup> St. to Find Lead
Pierson reviewed the work that was done and the issues related to locating the service lead for 7821 N. 37 <sup>th</sup> Street after the private sewer failed. The Board agreed by consensus that a direct meeting and settlement with Mr. Lawicki would be in our best interests. <i>Pierson to attempt to set up a meeting with Mr. Lawicki.</i>	

LS #2 Valve Repairs	Reworking of Valves at LS #2
This has been completed.	

LS #5 Control Work	Reworking of Controls at LS #5
This has been completed.	

Realtor Inquiry-Tammy England Home	Sherman Lake-Home Listed for Sale
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Gull Meadows Farms-Sewer Inquiry	Inquiry About Future Connection
Pierson provided an estimated cost for future connection of Gull Meadows Farms to the sewer.	

Vineyard Schools	Inquiry - School Construction Plans
There are no immediate plans for school construction.	

## NEW BUSINESS

B. Bowman Conference Attendance	ISC Trade Show
Pierson requested Board approval to send Barry Bowman to the ISC Trade Show so that he can determine the next generation radio alarm system, which may be needed for the transmission of pump and rain data as we investigate inflow + infiltration. A motion was made by Stoneburner and seconded by Light to send Barry to the trade show at an estimated cost of \$947. <b><u>Motion carried; all ayes.</u></b>	

Pictometry Flight Renewal	\$7,800 Split w/ Richland Township
Pierson requested Board approval to go forward with Pictometry for another 3 years and subsequently evaluate if we really need it. The cost will be split with Richland Township. Light made the motion seconded by Kahler to go forward with Pictometry for another 3 years. <b><u>Motion carried; all ayes.</u></b>	

Draft Financial Forecast  
 Draft 2012-2013 Budget  
 Health Care – Senate Bill 7

Deferred to 3/22/2012 Workshop  
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Pierson provided an overview of the issues of service, who we are, what we do and what levels of service are we going to provide, given the constraints on the budget for the next fiscal year. Additional discussion of these items was deferred to a workshop to be held on March the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. so that the Board can discuss the level of service GLSWA wants to provide and the associated cost + to assess the impact on the budget and financial forecast.

## **PROJECT UPDATE:**

Grinder Lines – 37<sup>th</sup> Street Only                      Grinders for Inspection/Repair  
 There is a corrosion issue with copper to ductile iron connections. A total of 11 grinder connections will be investigated and fixed by replacing the copper ‘tailpiece’ with plastic at a total cost estimate of \$5,000-\$7,000.

Lift Station Guide Rail Replacement Project  
 Lift Station #11, Lift Station #6 and Lift Station #4 guide rails have been rebuilt. We have done 13 out of 25 and still have 12 to go. We are averaging 3-4 per year at an average cost of \$2,200 each.

Groundwater – Clean Water Elimination                      Update  
 Pierson discussed the timing for studying Cooper Township rainfall and pump data. We hope to use this study to justify spending money in other areas.

Manhole Inspection/Inflow/Infiltration Project                      Update  
 Continued review of in-house repairs vs. out-source – Summer of 2012.

## **OLD BUSINESS: ACTIVE**

Software – GIS – M-Power – Scanning Review                      Update on 2012 IT Plans  
 We viewed the Microsoft Search Server and are comparing that to the DocRecord System for our document management needs to be able to scan all of our paper files into electronic copies and be able to access them.

## **OLD BUSINESS: STATUS UNCHANGED**

Charleston Township Sewer                      Update on Rates: Begin Cost-Benefit Analysis  
 Pierson to begin cost-benefit analysis. Their sewer contract expires 2016.

Comstock Township Sewer + Water Update on Rates: Begin Cost-Benefit Analysis  
This item is on hold.

Gentry High Ground Water Matter                      No Further Contact with Attorneys  
There has been no further contact with attorneys in this regard. This item will come off the Old Business agenda.

Grease Ordinance + Enforcement                      Update  
Pierson to review ordinances and initiate program for grease enforcement.

Office Remodel & Improvements                      Update  
Front entrance sign/flagpole yet to be acquired; top dirt dressing in the spring; iron removal system.

CMOM-Collection System Requirements Pending / Self Assessment: On-Going.  
CMOM stands for "Capacity, Management, Operations, and Maintenance" and is a framework for municipalities to utilize widely-accepted wastewater industry practices to better manage sewer collection systems. Self Assessment is on-going.

Kalamazoo Regional Water + Wastewater Comm.      Update  
FOIA lawsuit has been filed as a result of City refusal to share rate model and is awaiting a court date. Meetings with the attorney and rate consultant are ongoing.

Billboard/Purchase of Consumers Energy Property      Pierson Met With Representative  
Pierson met with a Consumers Energy representative regarding billboard removal and/or relocation.

Easement Releases                      Ongoing Project-coordinate w/ scanning files to GIS.

Sewer Connection Fee Issues                      No response; \$8,900 Eng Fees not Paid  
There has been no response from Attorney Ken Sparks letter to Attorney Swenarton as of yet. In addition, Rosenberger still owes GLSWA engineering fees of approximately \$8,900.

30<sup>th</sup> Street South Gravity Design                      Easement Pursuit  
Easement pursuit to be accomplished by Pierson.

Water Connection Fee Issues                      Ongoing Project  
On-going project to review and establish appropriate fees in Township/Village. Plan to be developed for administering water connections for Richland Township and Richland Village in order to cost-average short-side and long-side taps to the water main, preventing one side of the road paying more than the other side (where the water main is located). Comstock Township took bids to contract out water service connections and Scott Taylor was the low bidder. The Township set a water connection price that township residents pay based on the average cost of the two street sides. Customers pay this in advance and then the township pays Scott Taylor

the actual cost when the work is done. *Pierson to put a proposal together for Richland Township based on this framework.*

Also, need to establish adequate connection fees to provide for the replacement of watermain in the future, as the Township owns the watermain.

Sherman Lake Easement-Clean-up and Check      Review  
Pierson to review easements and check for accuracy – file in GIS system.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW/ PAY BILLS**

A motion was made by Kahler and seconded by Stoneburner to file the financial reports as presented, approve the standard bills paid, and pay the Prein & Newhof bill.

**Motion carried; all ayes.**

## **CLOSING COMMENTS**

ADJOURN. BUDGET WORKSHOP ON THURSDAY MARCH 22, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.;  
NEXT MEETING TUESDAY MARCH 27, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. Chairman Bither adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Submitted for approval

  
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Jacqueline Light – Secretary