

FIFE LAKE AREA UTILITY AUTHORITY (FLAUA)

Regular Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 6:00 p.m. 231-879-3565
Fife Lake Township Hall, 134 Morgan Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633

CALL TO ORDER: President Gray called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL: President Gray called Roll.

Present: President Tom Gray, Vice President Marilyn Hayes, Secretary Leigh Gifford, and Commissioners Ron Broering, David McGough, David Gill and Tom Hempsted.

Absent: Treasurer Jodi Thayer and Commissioner Jim Gifford.

Others in Attendance: Compliance Officer Ray Ravary and Recording Secretary Kay Held.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Amendments:

Under New Business:

-Annual Transfer of Year 2020 Meeting Packet Folders from Recording Secretary to Compliance Officer.

Board Action: Ms. Hayes made a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Mr. Broering seconded the motion.

VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Acceptance of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2021:

Board Action: Mr. Broering made a motion to accept the Minutes of the January 20, 2021, Regular Meeting as presented. Mr. Gill seconded the motion. VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The January, 2021, Treasurer's Report was distributed in advance of the meeting for Board review.

Treasurer's Report – Financial Report of January, 2021, and Payment of Bills:

Note: President Tom Gray discussed the Financial Report in the absence of Treasurer Jodi Thayer. There was Board discussion in review of the Financial Report.

Board Action: Mr. Broering made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented. Mr. Gill seconded the motion.

VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills: February, 2021, Bills Payable:

Note: President Tom Gray discussed the Bills Payable in the absence of Treasurer Jodi Thayer. An updated A/P was distributed to the Board. There was Board discussion regarding Bills Payable.

Re: A new invoice from Running and Wise for \$1,013 was received. The Board is concerned that legal fees in the Van's Lane matter are becoming exorbitant. We hope to recoup these expenses as they are asked for in the suit.

We have recently paid attorney fees of \$900 for process server fees and filing a motion for court date. Unfortunately, all parties related to the case (property owners/land contract holders/tenants) were not served notice. The attorney has since had to file to withdraw our motion to the courts for the January hearing date on the Van's Lane matter.

We pay attorney fees of \$140/hour, which appear to be a standard rate. However, Board members are somewhat dissatisfied in the attorney's performance in not fully researching property owners in order to appropriately serve them;

whereas our Treasurer was able to garner this information after a relatively short search. Compliance Officer Ravary has spoken with Attorney Grier about the FLAUA's concerns with their lack of properly researching and serving parties as well as the charges we have been incurring. He stated that Mr. Grier is aware of the Board's concerns. Mr. Ravary received an email from the attorney which stated he has e-filed the lawsuit and is contacting a process server to deliver notice to the resident.

The Board again brought forth discussion to consider working with a different law firm in the future, after this suit is resolved.

Board Action:

Mr. Broering made a motion to approve the February, 2021, bills as presented. Ms. Hayes seconded the motion. ROLL CALL VOTE: Hayes-Y, Broering-Y, Gray-Y, L. Gifford-Y, McGough-Y, Gill-Y, Hempsted-Y. Motion carried.

GUESTS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel Committee: No meeting. No report.

Steering and Operations Committee: No meeting. No report.

Compliance Officer/FVOP Report:

The Compliance Officer Report was distributed in advance of the meeting and discussed among the Board. Mr. Ravary reiterated his report and also reported on the following:

MI Waters online states we owe \$7,800 in fees to the DEQ. He assumes it is our annual licensing and discharge permit fee. He asked the Board check with H&R Block to see if we failed to pay last year's fee (which is highly unlikely) and MI Waters has combined it with this year's permit fee in the bill. President Gray believes our annual fee is approximately \$3650. That would leave a difference of \$4,150.

Treasurer Thayer will check with H&R Block on last year's permit payment and work with Compliance Officer Ravary and the DEQ to clarify the charges in this \$7,800 bill.

We should expect an invoice close to \$1,000 from Advantage Electric for repair of the lighting in the parking lot, per Compliance Officer Report.

The Discharge Management Reports (DMR) are complete and currently under review. Mr. Barry Christianson reviewed it; however advised him to expect follow-up requests from the reviewers in Lansing.

The MTPP grant reimbursement documentation for the cameras is complete and submitted. We will be awarded a check in the amount of \$2,500 for having our grant application accepted. He will keep an eye out for it and follow-up with our insurance company if it takes longer than a month.

Mr. Jay Norris will be out the beginning of March for the irrigation controls upgrade and expects to have it completed by the first of April.

Performance Engineers, our Engineer of Record, has a staff member on-site one day each week or two to become familiar with our operations per our agreement with them.

Compliance Officer Ravary has received a bid for headworks from Performance Engineers. He is waiting to hear from Northern A-1 for a cost on lowering and cleaning the pond. He will compile bid and expense information for the next meeting. Mr. Ravary believes there are grant opportunities to help cover these costs and will investigate.

Regarding solar at the irrigation station; we should have another one where one pond empties into another. A grant opportunity is available for a solar powered agitator where 90% of this cost could be covered. This would allow for a better mix of the ferric chloride. He will also investigate this grant opportunity.

Compliance Officer Ravary believes the main generator may not running properly. It should run once a week for 30 minutes. The last two months we have been billed \$34.99/month from DTE (gas bill). President Gray asked him to check and monitor the hour meter. This \$34.99 could possibly be a minimum commercial account charge (rather than a gas

charge) as it is unlikely for the bill to be the exact same amount each month. He will reset the clock timer and monitor the generator function and hour meter.

Mr. Ravary requested a Covid vaccination due to nature of his work and limited backup employee. The Board suggested he contact Kaskaska District Health Department and other healthcare outlets to make his request.

CITIZEN COMMENT: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Transfer of Year 2020 Meeting Packet Folders from Recording Secretary to Compliance Officer:

Recording Secretary Held delivered her Meeting Packet folders from year 2020 meetings to the Compliance Officer for permanent storage at the plant. This is a practice that is done annually.

OLD BUSINESS:

Asset Management Plan: Ongoing.

Outstanding Task List Discussion:

The Outstanding Task List was reviewed. New items were added for individual and Board follow-up.

President Gray presented draft of an FLAUA Contract for Pest Removal (ducks and geese). It was distributed to the Board for review and input and will be reviewed at the next meeting for any edits. There may be a prospective meeting with the individual who approached FLAUA to manage the nuisance of ducks and geese. This will be on the March meeting agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

CITIZEN COMMENT: None.

BOARD COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Broering made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gill seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Submitted by: Kay Z. Held, Recording Secretary