

FIFE LAKE AREA UTILITY AUTHORITY (FLAUA)

Regular Meeting - Minutes

Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 6:00 p.m. 231-879-3565  
Fife Lake Township Hall, 134 Morgan Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Tom Gray called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** President Gray called Roll.

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

**Absent:** Treasurer Jodi Thayer and Commissioner Jim Gifford.

**Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Ray Ravary, Compliance Officer  
Ms. Kay Held, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Board Action:**

Mr. Broering made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Gill seconded the motion.  
VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

**Acceptance of Regular Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2021:**

**Board Action:**

Ms. Gifford made a motion to accept the Minutes of the August 18, 2021, Regular Meeting as presented. Mr. Broering seconded the motion.  
VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

Messrs. Gill and McGough abstained from voting as they were absent at the August 18 meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

The August, 2021, Treasurer's Report was distributed in advance of the meeting for Board review. President Gray reported in Treasurer Thayer's absence.

President Gray reiterated Treasurer Thayer's monthly reports about budget items being in line year-to-date and in good order.

Compliance Officer Ravary noted the payroll/operating expenses are low; he has been intent on keeping those costs as low as possible.

**Board Action:**

Ms. Hayes made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented. Mr. Broering seconded the motion.  
VOTE: YEAS: All. NAYES: None. Motion carried.

**Payment of Bills: August, 2021, Bills Payable:** An updated A/P report was distributed at the meeting. There was Board discussion regarding Bills Payable.

There was Board discussion about a 35-minute call from a resident; this seems excessive. Mr. Gray and Mr. Broering have spoken with the resident about his concerns. Mr. Gray also spoke with H&R Block accountant Ms. Emily Escajeda, who is

aware in these instances to forward individuals to a Board member to attempt resolution and minimize additional billing. She had done so in this case.

The Board asked Mr. Ravary to check to see if the vacant cabin on Maple Street (with the branch through the roof) is paying a sewer bill and by whom.

**Board Action:**

Mr. Broering made a motion to approve the August, 2021, bills as presented. Mr. Hempsted 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.

The Personnel Committee will meet to conduct a 90-day review for part-time employee Mr. Jacob Shively.

**Steering and Operations Committee:**

No meeting. No report.

Mr. Ravary would like the Steering and Operations Committee to meet with an objective of obtaining records from Fleis & VandenBrink before they are able to destroy records after seven years of origination. FLAUA technically owns the data and electronic files.

Mr. Ravary would also like to discuss issues he has been having working with Mr. Jay Norris of ICE.

**Compliance Officer/FVOP Report:** The Compliance Officer Report was distributed in advance of the meeting and discussed among the Board. Compliance Officer Ravary reported on the following.

The battery on A3 generator went out. After troubleshooting, he got it running again. However, all of our batteries are 4-5 years old.

All programmable controllers have NICAD batteries; if power is lost, so is programming. He asked Mr. Jay Norris to order them. This is a hidden expense; however, items that must be maintained. The Board asked him to put battery maintenance on a five-year PM schedule.

The herbicide has been applied. The milfoil is dying off well; the duckweed is coming along. The permit for it came through quickly.

There was a lightning strike from the recent storms. We lost the surge protector for the entire plant; it was rebooted after losing all three legs. New units are \$2,000 each. We also lost the radio at A6. Glen from Advantage Electric told him they can get used ones for \$500 in order to have a second one. These losses were from two different storms. He will file an insurance claim for surge protectors and an input card on the controller.

Fife Lake Township is asking \$1,500 for each of the two zero turn mowers. He would like to purchase both if possible, but definitely one. There was Board consensus for him to purchase one of them and make an offer of \$2,000 for both. They are currently being repaired.

**Board Action:**

Mr. Gill made a motion to authorize Compliance Officer Ravary to make an offer to Fife Lake Township for the purchase of two zero turn mowers. Mr. McGough seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Gifford abstained from the vote as she sits on the Fife Lake Township Board.

Mr. Ravary informed the Board a Settlement Conference for the Vans Lane suit is scheduled for 9/17/21. He will be acting as second chair to Attorney Grier. An offer is likely to be presented to the Board for consideration.

**CITIZEN COMMENT:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Asset Management Plan: Tabled to next month. There was brief discussion about long-term needs. Mr. Ravary will generate a list of areas that need updating.

Outstanding Task List Discussion:

The Outstanding Task List was reviewed. New items were added for individual and Board follow-up. Additional follow-up/resolution includes:

We received the expected five bound copies of the 2020 Audit from Gabridge. President Gray provided a copy to each municipality as well as the FLAUA plant. The FLAUA President has one as well.

The Board will review Auditor/Accounting/Engineering contracts at the October meeting. They will not be considering alternative attorney representation until the Vans Lane case is concluded.

Ms. Thayer spoke with Mr. Blake Smith of USDA to clarify his email response whether FLAUA has any ability to modify REUs. This inquiry was originated through the Historical Society request. We understand the USDA requirements are strict, and we are not able to give non-profit organizations a break on monthly fees. His response affirmed that we are unable to modify REUs.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**CITIZEN COMMENT:** None.

**BOARD COMMENT:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Gill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Broering seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

**Submitted by: Kay Z. Held, Recording Secretary**