

APPROVED MINUTES
GERRISH LYON UTILITY AUTHORITY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
January 8, 2024
Held at Lyon Township Hall
7851 W. Higgins Lake Drive
Roscommon, MI 48653

Regular meeting called to order at 6:55 pm. Present: Jim Barnwell, Phil Czech, Bill Lamb, Jerry McKenna, Eric Carlson, and Dave Hall. Tom Metcalf absent.

APPROVAL OF November 11, 2023 MEETING MINUTES: Motion by Bill Lamb, supported by Dave Hall: CARRIED that the November 11, 2023 Minutes be approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA: Motion by Jerry McKenna, supported by Dave Hall: CARRIED that the agenda be approved as presented.

Old Business:

1. Update status of project plan
 - A. Higgins Lake Foundation awarded GLUA with a \$50,000.00 grant.
 - B. HLPOA awarded GLUA with a \$10,000.00 grant.
 - C. Additional private donations have been received.

New Business:

1. Motion by Phil Czech to designate Huntington National Bank as the bank for Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority, supported by Bill Lamb. CARRIED that Huntington National Bank be designated as the bank for Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority.
2. Motion by Phil Czech to designate William Lamb and James Barnwell or their designated agent(s) to submit applications for grants and loans, supported by Jerry McKenna. CARRIED that William Lamb and James Barnwell be designated, or their designated agent(s), to submit applications for grants and loans.

Discussion:

Jim Barnwell addressed the need for an organizational chart for GLUA to better facilitate the upcoming tasks and requirements facing the authority. Jim asked Jerry McKenna to research federal and state programs that assist those who may qualify financially, to which Jerry agreed to do so.

Jim also gave in-depth, detailed personal take regarding buildable vacant lots and equity in assessing, that equitable does not necessarily mean equal. He asked the board to give these issues consideration and prepare to discuss them at our February meeting.

Public Comments:

Paul Bertrand – asked about building codes, any new water studies planned, and if any pushback on the WWTP site.

Todd Pride - brought up need for lobbyists in acquiring state and federal money. Suggested a firm who has had recent success in this area and offered his assistance working in Lansing.

Sam – spoke to the definition of “turn-key” and the old school interpretation of what it includes.

Board comments

Eric Carlson – recalled from a meeting early on, a representative from USDA presented information for assistance to disadvantaged homeowners. Perhaps we could invite him back. Eric also agrees vacant lots need to be charged. Lastly, Lyon Township has passed a septic tank ordinance and will be coming into play over the coming months.

Phil Czech – Letter from Muskegon River Watershed supporting the sewer project is available in the back along with an earlier finding from F & V regarding nitrate and phosphorous discharges.

Jim Barnwell – Thanked Eric Carlson for his work on the Lyon septic ordinance. Still waiting on final report from Tip of the Mitt. Stated despite info on social media, we do have letters of support from our legislatures.

Bill Lamb – thanked HLF and HLPOA for their grants. Work is currently in process in applying for additional funding. Stated his support for the project is dependent upon gathering funding to make it affordable.

Dave Hall – Thanked Jim Barnwell for his research and information presented tonight. Said it is great to see more citizens offering help as we move forward.

Motion made to adjourn by Jim Barnwell/supported by Phil Czech. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.