

APPROVED MINUTES
GERRISH LYON UTILITY AUTHORITY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
February 12, 2024
Held at Gerrish Township Hall
2997 E. Higgins Lake Drive
Roscommon, MI 48653

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 pm. PRESENT: Jim Barnwell, Phil Czech, Jerry McKenna and Eric Carlson. ABSENT: Dave Hall, Bill Lamb and Tom Metcalf .

APPROVAL OF January 8, 2024 MEETING MINUTES: Motion by Eric Carlson, supported by Jerry McKenna: CARRIED that the January 8, 2023 Minutes be approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA: Motion by Phil Czech, supported by Eric Carlson: CARRIED that the agenda be approved as presented.

Old Business:

1. Update status of project plan
 - A. Implementation aspect now a focus
 - B. Soil borings being conducted at planned WWTP

New Business:

1. Homeowner Assistance Programs – USDA has two programs, one a grant, the other a loan for qualified resident homeowners. General overview of each presented with further details and applications to be posted on the GLUA website. Application assistance offered through the Caro USDA office. The Michigan Department of Treasury offers a deferred special assessment program. Applications for this program is available through the local township assessor.

Discussion:

1. Project Next Steps – HLF & HLPOA, along with private donors, providing some funding. Hydrological survey underway, need to do aerial mapping, hopefully early spring.
2. Budget – Need to develop budget prior to fiscal year starting April 1, 2024.
3. Assessments – No decision yet on vacant lots. Have invited Fleis & Vandenbrink to next meeting. Big challenge to make on lot costs equitable.

Public Comments:

Gayle Blume – Is there an assessment district?

Paul Ochmanek – Is the contractor still on board?

Laura Lavere – Was told Houghton Lake businesses did not have to pay for their sewer. How did it get paid for? Will there be a vote?

Cathy Murphy – Will there be a report on spending?

Sue Schlicker – Why include the back letters?

Board comments

Eric Carlson – Troy from USDA spoke at a meeting early on. Suggested we ask him back. Reiterated we are following rules of law for Public Act 188.

Phil Czech – Thanked everyone for coming and for the good comments.

Jerry McKenna – Understand there are those who may not qualify for USDA programs who face a hardship. The board is actively working to find additional assistance.

Jim Barnwell – Tip of the Mitt report still not finalized.

Motion made to adjourn by Eric Carlson/supported by Jerry McKenna. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.