

GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING – FEBRUARY 14, 2008
MINUTES

The Gogebic Range Water Authority met in regular session on Thursday, February 14, 2008 at the Bessemer Township Hall, Ramsay MI 49959. Notice of meeting was published in the *Daily Globe* newspaper's "Eight Day Calendar of Events"

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Rickard, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL: Present: Anderson, Bertetto, Prisbe, Frello, Rickard, Pikka, Smith, Grenfell, Salmi, Estola

Absent: Pavlovich

Also present: Randy Scott and Chuck Lawson, Wilcox Engineering & GRWA administrator, Jean Verbos

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES: Moved by Bertetto and supported by Grenfell to accept the minutes of the January 10, 2008 regular meeting as presented and place them on file. Motion carried.

OPERATING ACCOUNT CLAIMS: Moved by Estola and supported by Anderson to approve payment of the claims against the operating account in the amount of \$16,515.18. Motion was unanimously carried upon a roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Moved by Anderson and supported by Salmi to place the communications on file. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Informational only: The Anvil/Indianhead Water system improvements project bids were advertised starting February 11, 2008 in the local newspaper and the construction trade journals. The bids will be opened on March 13, 2008 at 3:00 prevailing time at the GRWA meeting room in Ramsay. A bid summary will be presented by the engineers at the regular GRWA Board meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. the same day.

B. A proposal to provide general legal services from local Attorney Michael Pope was reviewed and discussed. The charge for his services was quoted at \$100/hour plus expenses. The GRWA is in need of a legal firm that is able to respond timely and professionally to all issues, has access to unlimited research resources and extensive municipal experience as does Mr. Pope's firm. Mr. Bucknell will remain attorney of record for the Anvil/Indianhead and water storage tank projects.

Moved by Bertetto and supported by Grenfell to accept the legal services proposal from the Dean & Pope law firm at a rate of \$100/hour plus expenses for all GRWA general legal issues and future proposed water construction projects that do not have a signed legal services agreement in effect.

Motion was unanimously carried upon a roll call vote.

C. Randy Scott, GRWA engineer, gave a brief overview of the presentation he will be making at the February 18, 2007 Bessemer City Council meeting regarding a request for a roll back in the wholesale water rate being charged by the city. The lower rate will facilitate the Ironwood Township project's ability to meet the debt service obligation without huge increases in the already high water rates in the township. The Bessemer City Council meets at 5:00 p.m. at the City Hall in Bessemer for those wishing to attend the meeting.

D. The "Operating Budget" and cash flow analysis for the upcoming Anvil/Indianhead water system improvement project was presented to all board members for review and discussion.

Moved by Grenfell and supported by Anderson to approve and authorize signatures on the Anvil/Indianhead operating budget and forward the signed document to USDA Rural Development as required.

Motion was unanimously carried upon a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Moved by Bertetto and supported by Prisbe to authorize increasing the GRWA general liability insurance deduction from \$250 to \$500 for a savings of \$414.00 on the 2008 premium. Motion was unanimously carried upon a roll call vote.

B. A discussion was held regarding the water quality the GRWA Stone Road wells versus the City of Wakefield and City of Ironwood and the possibility of developing a well field in Ironwood Township if favorable funding becomes available in the future.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS: Moved by Anderson and supported by Salmi to place the financial reports on file. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Anderson and supported by Bertetto to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Motion carried.

Walter Rickard, Chairman

G. Jean Verbos, Administrator