

GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 8, 2007  
MINUTES

The Gogebic Range Water Authority met in regular session on Thursday March 8, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bessemer Township Hall in Ramsay, MI 49959.

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

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Anderson, Bertetto, Ozzello, Rickard, Smith, Grenfell, Salmi, Estola, Olsen, Pavlovich

Absent: Pikka

Also present: Randy Scott, GRWA engineer and Jim Buc'nell

Mr. Olsen introduced Mr. Glen Pavlovich, City of Bessemer's newly appointed member at – large to the GRWA Board.

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES:** Moved by Bertetto and supported by Ozzello to approve and place on file the minutes with one correction, the addition of Mr. Olsen's name under "Roll Call". Motion carried.

**OPERATING ACCOUNT CLAIMS:** Moved by Anderson and supported by Smith to approve payment of the claims against the operating account in the amount of \$50,674.85.

Motion was unanimously carried upon a roll call vote.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Administrator Verbos stated that one of the requirements of USDA Rural Development for funding the Anvil/Indianhead water system improvements project is to have a water supply purchase agreement for the length of the loan. GRWA is requesting a three year extension of the City of Wakefield water supply agreement, the contract addendum has been sent to Wakefield for consideration. A copy of the 1.5 million dollar special appropriation request for the Ironwood Township water system project from Congressman Stupak was also presented.

Moved by Olsen and supported by Bertetto to place the communications on file. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. The revised cost to provide a water main extension to the proposed Wal-Mart construction site were presented and reviewed by the Board. GRWA was just recently notified by Mr. Ron Greenlee, Wal-Mart attorney, that the crossing under U.S. 2 would require a 12 in water main as opposed to the 8 inch water main that GRWA has specified since the beginning of the planning process. GRWA engineers, Wilcox Professional Services, updated the costs to include the 12 inch main at an additional \$20,000. This brings the cost of the project to \$229,844.75, and leaves no contingency funds in the budget. The revised Wal-Mart Development Agreement shows the additional \$20,000

costs will be paid for by Wal-Mart. A copy of the revised agreement and GRWA project budget was given to all Board members and reviewed. The GRWA Board was satisfied that their requested changes to the Development Agreement have been met and has previously authorized the appropriate signatures to execute the original agreement as soon as it is received. Mr. Randy Scott, GRWA engineer, stated that the design is complete and the necessary permits are being applied for.

B. Administrator Verbos reported that she attended the Wakefield Township Board meeting on March 7, 2007 to respond to any question the Township Board had regarding the Indianhead Ski Resort Water System Franchise Agreement. The Franchise is a requirement of USDA Rural Development for funding the proposed water system improvement project planned for construction in 2007. Wakefield Township has forwarded the agreement to their attorney for comment and will hold a special meeting, if necessary, to adopt.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

A. Moved by Ozzello and supported by Smith to approve expenses for Administrator Verbos to attend the 2007 U.P. Water Works Institute on May 1-2 in Marinette, WI. Motion was unanimously approved upon a roll call note of the Board.

B. The "Performance Resolution" now required by Michigan Department of Transportation to obtain a permit to work within their right of ways was presented to the Board and reviewed. This is required for the extension of the water main to serve the proposed Wal-Mart store to be located in Ironwood Township.

Moved by Grenfell and supported by Ozzello to adopt the MDOT Performance Resolution for Governmental Bodies and authorize proper signatures. Motion was unanimously carried upon a roll call vote.

C. Randy Scott, GRWA project engineer, reported that he had attended a USDA Seminar and there is a possibility of congress passing another Farm Bill which might help fund the Ironwood Township water system project. Wilcox Engineering will be updating the Ironwood Township application and costs in anticipation of the funding bill.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Moved by Bertetto and supported by Ozzello to place the financial statements on file. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Olsen and supported by Anderson to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Motion carried.

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Walter Rickard, Chairman

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G. Jean Verbos, Administrator