

GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 13, 2007
MINUTES

The Gogebic Range Water Authority met in regular session on Thursday, September 13, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bessemer Township Hall in Ramsay, MI 49959. Meeting notice was published in the Daily Globe newspaper's "Eight Day Calendar".

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Delmar Smith in the absence of Chairman Rickard, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL: Present: Bertetto, Ozzello, Olsen, Pavlovich, Smith, Grenfell, Salmi, & Estola
Absent: Anderson, Pikka, Rickard

Also present: Jim Bucknell, GRWA Attorney; Gary Daniels, Wilcox Engineering; and one citizen.

MINUTES: Moved by Bertetto and supported by Ozzello to accept as presented and place on file the minutes of the August 9, 2007 regular meeting. Motion carried.

OPERATING ACCOUNT CLAIMS: Moved by Bertetto and supported by Salmi to approve payment of the claims against the operating account in the amount of \$28,142.02.

Motion was unanimously approved upon a roll call vote.

COMMUNICATIONS: The letter from the city of Ironwood to Ironwood Township notifying them of a reduction in the rate charged Ironwood Township for water from \$3.54 per 100 cubic feet to \$2.933 per 100 cubic feet effective September 13, 2007. This is a step in the right direction but the City still charges a "meter" fee for each individual and master meter to the township; this is an issue that needs to be resolved to move the proposed construction projects forward. GRWA will seek a legal opinion on this issue in the future.

The letter from the City of Bessemer endorsing the meter & connection between the City and Bessemer Township in the Anvil location to provide back up if needed was discussed. The connection will be constructed in the upcoming Anvil/Indianhead project. Letters from MDEQ regarding the recent water supply chemical monitoring test results (TTHM/HAA5) for the Indianhead and Blackjack water systems stating the systems now qualify for reduced frequency monitoring of once every three years instead of four time a year.

It was also noted that GRWA attorney Jim Bucknell has notified Xcel Energy that if the Blackjack water system \$1559.00 damage claim needs to be resolved.

Moved by Ozzello and supported by Grenfell to place the communication on file.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Moved by Ozzello and supported by Bertetto to approve and authorize signatures on the final pay request for the Wal-Mart water main extension the amount of \$6,984.04. Motion was unanimously carried upon a roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. An amended GRWA Rate Ordinance was presented for discussion. The rate is amended to reflect increases to the Ironwood Township water rate to pass on the recent increase from the City of Ironwood to the township.

Moved by Ozzello and supported by Estola to approve the amended GRWA Water Rate Resolution.

Motion was unanimously carried upon a roll call vote.

B. Moved by Ozzello and supported by Bertetto to not pass the \$0.03 increase from the City of Wakefield to the GRWA wholesale customers and leave the wholesale rate at the current rate of \$3.86 per 1000 gallons.

Motion was unanimously carried upon a roll call vote.

C. Pending the three water system construction projects, USDA requires the GRWA to have a three year contract for auditing services, the current contract expires with this fiscal year audit. Audit proposal from David Traczyk, CPA to perform the GRWA audit for the years ending June 30, 2008, 2009 and 2010 for a fee not to exceed \$5000 per year, and to perform single audits as required of OMB circular A-133 for an additional fee of \$3000 per year was discussed.

Moved Grenfell and supposed by Ozzello to accept the proposal from Mr. Traczyk and authorize signatures on the contract.

Motion was unanimously carried upon a roll call vote.

D. Administrator explained that the GRWA is in the process of preparing agreements to assume ownership of the Indianhead and Bessemer Township water systems. This will entail billing of all the water customers. Mr. Grenfell has agreed to assist in the set up and billing process until another person can be trained and the administrator is requesting to purchase another computer and laser printer to be used just for billing purposes.

Moved by Smith and supported by Ozzello to authorize the GRWA Administrator to purchase a computer and laser printer for billing purposes at a cost not to exceed \$3600.00.

Motion was unanimously carried upon a roll call vote.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS: Gary Daniels representing Wilcox engineering, gave an update on the progress of the Storage Tank project. The design has been completed and will be reviewed and sent to MDEQ for issuance of the construction permit next week. The deed to the tank site and the pipeline easement needs to be completed and bids can be let.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Grenfell and supported by Salmi to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Walt Rickard, Chairman

G. Jean Verbos, Administrator