

GRATIOT AREA WATER AUTHORITY
May 13, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Gratiot Area Water Authority was called to order at 12:04 p.m. by Chairman Phillip Moore in the Alma Municipal Building.

Present: Phillip Moore, Kurt Giles, Tom Reed, Don Pray, Melissa Allen, and Roxanne Harrington.
Absent: none.
Also present: Paul Borle, John Willemin, Keith Risdon, Ron Turner, Don Everhart, Justin Barnaby, Doug Sierakowski, Bill Pillmore, Jane Keon, Theo VanWalmenich, Dawn Brady, and recording secretary, Sara Youngs.

Motion by Allen, seconded by Harrington, to approve the minutes of April 8, 2016.

Yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, Pray, Allen, and Harrington.
No: none.

Chairman Moore addressed a communication from residents in Arcada Township requesting testing personal wells prior to putting GAWA wells into full production. John Willemin of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber told the Authority that AKT Peerless could meet with homeowners to work out a time and place for testing. Chairman Moore suggested a chemical analysis as well as water testing. The health department will pay for ten samples. Willemin explained that samples could be taken by them, the health department, or AKT Peerless, at the homeowner's discretion. The Authority agreed to pursue testing as needed, even if the number of samples exceeds the health department's limit.

Dawn Brady offered to send an email to residents regarding testing and will provide their responses to Member Giles. Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber will develop a permission form for residents who wish to have testing. Don Everhart offered to disseminate the permission forms to residents. Authority members all agreed to pursue testing.

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Giles, to approve a request for payment from Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber in the amount of \$8,523.10 for services rendered through April 8, 2016.

Yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, Pray, Allen, and Harrington.
No: none.

Motion by Allen, seconded by Reed, to approve a request for payment from RCL Construction in the amount of \$19,924.85 for Pay Application #25.

Yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, Pray, Allen, and Harrington.
No: none.

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Giles, to accept bids received for the water reservoir repainting project and award the bid to Horizon Brothers Painting of Howell for a total of \$250,000.

Yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, Pray, Allen, and Harrington.
No: none.

Authority members then turned to the Fiscal Year 2017 proposed budget. Ron Turner, Public Services Director, presented proposed expenditures and explained projections for chemicals, maintenance, administration, internal services charges, and general items. He also listed items scheduled for capital outlay improvements.

Paul Borle, City Treasurer, offered information about revenues and explained that revenue comes from water charges. The suggested rate is \$2.10 per unit. Total projected revenue is \$1,343,243.00. Chairman Moore noted that budget information was presented for review only and would be added to the next agenda for consideration for approval.

John Willemin, of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, offered the following engineer's report:

General

- FTCH provided some information on wage rates and payroll certification review to the City of St. Louis in preparation of the EPA audit.
- FTCH provided a memo regarding phosphate use at the water plant.

Water Plant

- Control programming, testing and debugging work remains in progress by the integration contractor. FTCH has been called to the plant to go through the controls. Several corrections were noted and issued to the Contractor.
- The chimney liner repair was begun but material sizing was not correct so it is being refabricated.
- Bulletin 20 was issued to RCL for pricing on some miscellaneous improvements.
- A conference call was conducted with the filter manufacturer to discuss some potential process adjustments to improve filter performance. The operators are evaluating.
- Partial Substantial Completion will be acknowledged for several major components of the work that are in service. We are waiting on RCL for proposed warranty dates on some equipment to finalize the dates.

Booster Stations

- Work on the revised punch list and contract closeout is ongoing.
- FTCH electrical inspector participated in a meeting on site to review electrical punch list items.

South Transmission Main

- Punch list work and contract closeout is ongoing.

Raw Water Transmission Main/Well 9 Well House

- A revised punch list for the Well 9 Well House Punch was issued to JR Heineman. They are still working on closeout documentation. A final change order will be processed to set final contract dates and adjust total contract price. It is anticipated that the project will finish over \$70,000 under budget.

Giddings Elevated Water Storage Tank

- Site work has resumed. The underground piping is connected from Giddings Place to the tank riser pipe. The first round of disinfection testing has passed.
- No cost changes are currently pending.
- The Contractor is tracking days lost to weather and has indicated two lost days to date.
- Logo selection is complete. Logo installation by another contractor is being considered.

Hydrogeological Study/Wells

- Pilot holes for Wells 10 and 11 have been installed. Casing installation was called off on a few occasions due to wet weather and access issues. Work is pending Contractor's ability to get back on to the site.
- A special use permit was granted by Arcada Township for the Wells 10 and 11 Well Houses with no additional provisions at their April 19, 2016 meeting. FTCH and representatives from GAWA were in attendance at the meeting. Questions from local residents focused primarily on water pumping and raw water main routing.
- Soil boring work is complete pending culvert design requirements for the county drain crossing for the Wells 10 and 11 access road. Survey is complete for the well houses and in progress for the raw water transmission main.
- A pre-application meeting for the Joint Permit for the drain crossing took place on 5/6/2016. Representatives of FTCH, MDEQ, and Gratiot County Drain Commissioner's Office were in attendance.
- Wells 10 and 11 well house design is on hold. The project bidding will be postponed to more closely coincide with the raw water transmission main construction project, which may not begin until spring of 2017 depending on design progress.
- A conference call was conducted with EPA regarding Well 12. Water level data in the St. Louis area was requested from EPA. FTCH will prepare a memo to EPA documenting the modeling conducted and support information to install Well 12.

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Allen, to receive engineer's report.

Yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, Pray, Allen, and Harrington.
No: none.

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Giles, to received financial statements.

Yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, Pray, Allen, and Harrington.
No: none.

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Giles, to receive and approve Warrant 16-4 and the several amounts scheduled therein, also to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks for payment of the same.

Public comment:

Jane Keon offered thanks to Kurt Giles for working together with residents.

Justin Barnaby invited those present to attend a meeting on the State of the Pine River on May 14, 2016, at Alma College.

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Allen, to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, Pray, Allen, and Harrington.
No: none.

Sara Youngs, Recording Secretary