

GRATIOT AREA WATER AUTHORITY
December 9, 2016

The regular meeting of the Gratiot Area Water Authority was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Chairman Moore in the Alma Municipal Building. A quorum of the board was present.

Board members present: Phillip Moore, Kurt Giles, Tom Reed, and Melissa Allen.
Board members absent: Roxann Harrington and Don Pray.
Others present: John Willemin, Ron Turner, Bill Pilmore, Keith Risdon, Theo VanWallmenich, Matthew Baltusis, and Recording Secretary Sara Youngs.

Motion by Reed, seconded by Giles, to approve the minutes of November 11, 2016. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, and Allen. Voting no: none. Absent: Harrington and Pray.

Requests for Payment

Motion by Allen, seconded by Giles, to approve a request for payment to Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, and Huber in the amount of \$3,974.34 for services rendered through 11/18/2016. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, and Allen. Voting no: none. Absent: Harrington and Pray.

Motion by Allen, seconded by Reed, to approve a request for payment to Arcada Township for the Water Authority's portion of a special assessment for drains on the Well #10 property in the amount of \$30.00. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, and Allen. Voting no: none. Absent: Harrington and Pray.

Chairman Moore presented a request for payment to System Specialties to replace a failed actuator in one of the filters at the water treatment plant.

Motion by Reed, seconded by Giles, to approve the request for payment to System Specialties in the amount of \$1,856.88 for a replacement actuator. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, and Allen. Voting no: none. Absent: Harrington and Pray.

Chairman Moore presented a request for Change Order #2 to Dixon Engineering for the 1,000,000 gallon reservoir painting project. Allen questioned the need for a second change order. Ron Turner explained that extra inspections were required for the project and the cost will be sorted out with the contractor. He expects there to be a credit with the final bill.

Motion by Giles, seconded by Allen, to approve Change Order #2 to Dixon Engineering, Inc. for the 1,000,000 gallon reservoir painting project increasing the amount of the contract by \$1,624.75 and approving payment of Invoice #16-1325 in the amount of \$1,624.75. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, and Allen. Voting no: none. Absent: Harrington and Pray.

Other Business

Chairman Moore told Authority members that communications at the water plant have been a problem in the past and a decision needs to be made about improvements now that the new wells will be added to the system. The current low power radio system isn't reliable, and causes problems for control of outbuildings, towers, wells, and pump stations. Options for improvement include higher powered radios with a higher frequency or cellular type coverage.

John Willemin of Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber, explained some of the stations are currently losing communication during bad weather, and adding new radios to an already unreliable system isn't feasible. He is working with Verizon to see if they can offer what is needed for the cellular option. He is somewhat skeptical about this option due to the unpredictability of monthly costs. Radios with cellular backup could be an option but would also include monthly charges, in addition to the cost of radios. Willemin said they would like to include the upgrades in the bidding process.

Authority member Don Pray arrived at 12:14 p.m.

The Authority returned to the problem of communications at the water plant and Willemin asked about bringing in a consultant to evaluate the issues and suggest solutions. Additional discussion followed about problems with the current "line of sight" radio system and bad weather. Chairman Moore expressed a concern about a cellular system as it can be overloaded and unavailable during times of emergency. He noted FEMA offers phones for municipalities that override the system, but it may be cost prohibitive as there is a per minute charge for the service.

Willemin and Turner suggested bringing J & K in for a consultation, and Turner recommended bid documents continue as currently written until a report is received from the consultant. Willemin noted that if we sign up with a network, the network assumes responsibility for security of the system, but he is still waiting for word from Verizon to see if they can meet our needs. There was general agreement from Authority members for assistance from a consultant.

Chairman Moore moved to the next topic on the agenda and explained that an organizational meeting is currently scheduled for January 11, 2017, and the next regular meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2017. He asked if the Authority wished to consider combining the meetings.

Motion by Pray, seconded by Giles, to combine the January 11, 2017, organizational meeting and the January 13, 2017, regular meeting and hold both on January 13, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. in the Alma Municipal Building. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, Allen, and Pray. Voting no: none. Absent: Harrington.

Reports

John Willemin provided the following engineer's update from Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr, & Huber:

Water Plant

- Chimney and boiler work is complete and has been approved by the Building Inspector.
- Punch list inspections are in progress. RCL is continuing with O&M submittals.

Booster Stations

- FTCH to issue updated punchlist to RCL for closeout.

Well 9 Well House

- Final payment has been recommended.

Giddings Elevated Water Storage Tank

- Maguire has been approved to move pressure sensing line on altitude valve. Upon completion, heat trace and insulation will be completed.
- O&M manual review is complete. Awaiting additional hard copy information to approve.
- Remaining punch list items include electrical testing and labeling and paint touch up at Crawford.

Wells 10 and 11 Raw Water Transmission Main and Well Houses

- Hydrogeological test reports are scheduled to be complete this week for Wells 10/11 permitting.
- Draft easement documents have been issued to the City of St. Louis for the Wells 10/11 access road. Consumers has reviewed these and does not take exception.
- Review sets of drawings and specifications were issued to EPA and DEQ for the Well House project. Their comments are pending.
- EPA and MDEQ comments have been received on the draft bidding documents for the Raw Water Transmission Main.
- FTCH will be issuing a set of final draft documents for state plan review this week.
- The Well House project bid opening is January 31, 2017 with a prebid meeting scheduled for January 13, 2017
- The Raw Water Transmission project bid opening is scheduled for February 10, 2017 with a prebid meeting scheduled for January 31, 2017.
- There has been no further data received from the Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) from the completed well testing.

Hydrogeological Study and Well 12

- Modeling is largely complete for the regional hydrogeo study to support the installation of Well 12 as requested by EPA.
- Identification of available sites for Well 12 is currently on hold.

Motion by Reed, seconded by Giles, to accept the December Engineer's Report and place it on file. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, Allen, and Pray. Voting no: none. Absent: Harrington.

Ron Turner provided the November Water Production Report and noted that St. Louis water needs exceeded Alma's usage during November.

Motion by Allen, seconded by Giles, to receive and place on file the November Water Production Report. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, Allen, and Pray. Voting no: none. Absent: Harrington.

Chairman Moore presented November Financial Statements to members and explained the copy they had received at the meeting included an amendment.

Motion by Allen, seconded by Giles, to receive and place on file the November Financial Statements as amended. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, Allen, and Pray. Voting no: none. Absent: Harrington.

Motion by Allen, seconded by Giles, to approve appropriations, Warrant 17-6, and the several amounts scheduled therein, also to authorize the City Treasurer to issue checks for payment of the same. Motion carried with voice vote. Voting yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, Allen, and Pray. Voting no: none. Absent: Harrington.

Public Comment

Matthew Baltusis, Senior Geologist with Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, asked questions about some of the issues discussed during the meeting. He also asked for a copy of a well maintenance record and it was provided to him by John Willemin.

Motion by Giles, seconded by Reed, to adjourn the meeting at 12:49 p.m. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Moore, Giles, Reed, Allen, and Pray. Voting no: none. Absent: Harrington.

Sara Youngs, Recording Secretary

Date of Approval