

“For Cleaner Lakes and Rivers”

# GRAND HAVEN-SPRING LAKE SEWER AUTHORITY

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT  
1525 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN 49417  
PHONE: (616) 847-3486

The regular meeting of the Grand Haven-Spring Lake Sewer Authority will be held at 8:15 A.M. on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 in the Council Chambers in Grand Haven City Hall located at 519 Washington St. Grand Haven, Michigan 49417

## MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday November 15, 2023

8:15 A.M.

### 1. Meeting called to order 8:18 AM

### 2. Roll Call:

Vice-Chair Ashley Latsch	City of Grand Haven
Treasurer Craig Bessinger	City of Ferrysburg
Wally Delamater	Village of Spring Lake
Patrick Staskiewicz	Ottawa County Road Commission
Bill Cargo	Grand Haven Township
Gordon Gallagher	Spring Lake Township
Joel Tepastte	Village of Spring Lake
<b>Not Present:</b>	
Steve Namenye	Member at Large
<b>Also Present:</b>	
Ryan Vredevelde	WWTP Superintendent
Alando Chappell	Grand Haven Township
Emily Greene	Finance Director – City of Grand Haven
Doug Vredevelde	Vredevelde-Haefner LLC
Timothy Price	Assistant City Manager – City of Grand Haven

### 3. Approval of the minutes of the August 16, 2023 Sewer Authority Board meeting

*Motion by Gallagher to approve the minutes, second by Cargo and motion carries*

#### **4. Public Comment**

*No public comment*

#### **5. Financial Report**

*Superintendent Vredevelde provides update on current financials*

#### **6. Superintendent's Report**

*Superintendent Vredevelde discusses his report which includes performance of treatment at the facility, compliance with their NPDES permit, as well as maintenance activity at the facility. Vredevelde wanted to recognize plant staff for all their efforts because their ability to undertake different maintenance issues and little projects has had tremendously positive impact on the facility's ability to control costs by keeping work in house and not having to hire outside contractors. It was also reported that the Spring Lake pump stations automatic transfer switch controller for the generator has failed and replacement options will be presented to the north bank communities when all quotes are received. Vredevelde also shared a document that illustrated the facilities decrease in energy usage since 2016, which positions the Sewer Authority's WWTP in the top 1/3 when benchmarked against all facilities in the United States. Vredevelde continued his report by highlighting the historical expenses for land application and shared how that compares to the potential regional solar drying facility costs identified in feasibility studies. There was also discussion about new technologies and how they may fit into the existing footprint at the WWTP. Trustee Cargo raised concern on how any new technology may impact the neighborhood in which the facility is located within and wanted to be sure that the foul odor factor among others is not lost on anyone when evaluating future improvements*

#### **7. General Business.**

##### **A. Annual Audit Presentation – Vredevelde-Haefner CPA**

*Doug Vredevelde presented the audit and gave a an opinion that the financial statements referred to in the report present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the Authority, as of June 30, 2023 and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.*

*Trustee Cargo expressed that the Sewer Authority may want to consider a rate study from an outside firm and many board members agreed that this would benefit the Authority.*

*Motion by Gallagher to accept the financial audit and that plant staff is to seek out services by a third party who can help provide the Sewer Authority with a rate study and to be discussed at the next meeting. Tepastte seconds the motion and the motion carries*

**B. Plant Modification Contribution Rate**

*Motion by Cargo to accept plant staff's recommendation of maintaining the current funding rate of the plant modification fund at \$200,000/year. Support by Tepastte and the motion carries*

**C. Sewer Authority Property Map – Update**

*Superintendent Vredevelde presents an update to the Sewer Authority board of where we are in the process of confirming property boundaries. Next steps are to hire a surveyor to provide legal description and plot on a map. Trustee Cargo asks if lot lines can be joined to help clean up the visual of the map and eliminate the complexity of all the different lots. Discussion will continue at the next Sewer Authority meeting.*

**D. City Parking Lot at East End**

*Motion by Gallagher and supported by Tepastte to accept the City's proposal of placing a public parking lot on Sewer Authority property in exchange for the portion of City of Grand Haven property in Parcel 4 as identified in the title search summary report. The Sewer Authority's Board's acceptance will also come with the City of Grand Haven's understanding that the Sewer Authority maintains the ownership of land where the parking lot is located, and can take possession back without being held financially responsible for any outstanding debt associated with the parking lot should the Authority need land for future expansion of treatment facility. Discussion also provides items of action needed such as cleaning up the recreational use agreement where City of Grand Haven operates a portion of Sewer Authority property and claims it as a green space designated for recreational use. Motion carries*

**E. Approval of Sewer Authority Meeting Dates for 2024**

*Motion by Cargo and supported by Gallagher to approve the proposed 2024 Sewer Authority meeting dates. Motion carries*

**F. Treatment Process Evaluation Proposal**

*Superintendent Vredevelde discusses the purpose for the evaluation and how it will be helpful for future treatment process control and future process improvements. Motion by Gallagher to accept proposal and add item as a user fee expense to current budget, supported by Cargo. Motion carries.*

**G. Sewer Authority Board Officers**

*Motion by Cargo to nominate self for Vice-Chairperson as Latsch will move to Chairperson, supported by Tepastte and motion carries.*

**H. Evaluation of Plant Superintendent**

*Discussion continued about the concern that the compensation package for Superintendent Vredevelde is not competitive and should be evaluated against other Superintendents on a regional level. Chairperson is tasked with obtaining*

*comparables and to meet with the Executive committee before the next regularly scheduled meeting to present a recommendation.*

**8. Board Member Comments.**

*No comments*

**9. Announcement of next Sewer Authority Meeting: February 21, 2024**

**10. Adjournment at 9:29 AM**

**Sewer Authority Members:**

Village of Spring Lake - Vacant  
City of Grand Haven - Vacant  
Ashley Latsch, Vice - Chairperson  
Craig Bessinger, Treasurer  
Steve Namenye  
Gordon Gallagher  
Patrick Staskiewicz  
Bill Cargo  
Joel Tepastte

**Alternate Members:**

Wally Delamater  
  
Derek Gajdos  
Matt Schindlbeck  
  
Joe Wallace  
Alando Chappell

**Consultants:**

Matt VanHoef

**Others:**

Grand Haven Tribune  
Bob Monetza  
Maria Boersma

GENERAL MEMBERS: IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR ALTERNATE SO THAT HE/SHE MAY