

APPROVED MINUTES
GERRISH LYON UTILITY AUTHORITY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
September 11, 2023
Held at Gerrish Township Hall
2997 E Higgins Lake Drive
Roscommon, MI 48653

Regular meeting called to order at 7:00 pm. Present: Jim Barnwell, Phil Czech, Dave Hall, Bill Lamb, and Jerry McKenna. Eric Carlson and Tom Metcalf absent.

Moment of Silence in remembrance of September 11, 2001

Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF August 14, 2023 MEETING MINUTES: Motion by Phil Czech, supported by Dave Hall: CARRIED that the August 14, 2023 Minutes be approved as presented.

Presentation: Kevin Kessler of Creative Educators International Network 7:05 – 7:38 pm regarding creation of a forum to bring the community together.

APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA: Motion by Dave Hall, supported by Phil Czech: CARRIED that the agenda be approved as presented.

Old Business:

Update status of project plan: no update on WWTP. DNR is sensitive to any disruption in the proposed site and has emphasized the minimization of the drilling impact.

New Business:

1. Business Plan: Jim Barnwell spoke of our need to develop a business plan and organize for Accounting Procedures, Banking Authorization, Signatories, Website, & Legal counsel. Dave Hall said he would like to research banks and report back to the board. Jim stated Phil Czech had been looking into accounting firms. Motion by Jerry McKenna and supported by Bill Lamb for Dave Hall and Phil Czech to research banks and accounting firms.
2. Project Next Steps: Record keeping, develop website, local counsel, ordinances to be considered, financial grants, engineering. Biggest priority financial aspect. Dave Hall remarked that is quite the list and is anxious to get going. Phil Czech said when we put the engineering out to bid, those companies should be there hand in hand to walk us through the process. Jim added we need to build our team of professionals to write grants, talk to legislatures and for the local community to contact their legislatures to support the project.

Public Comments:

Unidentified – Have not heard any comments from Scott’s & Sergeants on this project.
Dave Hobson(?)– Thanked Jim for 911 remembrance, thanked Kevin for his presentation, read statement by HLU group questioning ten properties in Lyon township who signed petitions.

Dave Knific – What type of design has been presented to DNR for WWTP? Gravity system less expensive than STEP, STEP has between 13-24% callouts. Performance septic systems are great but need to be maintained. All misinformation between different systems needs to be sorted out so residents are clear.

Patty Dennis – Thanked the board for their efforts, excited Lyon went over 50% and has personally spent a lot of time verifying signatures and is confident they are valid but time will tell. Hopefully we can put aside our battles and move forward.

Colbert (didn't get first name) – There is a need for an organized plan if this is to ever move forward, may take ten years waiting on grants. Need to get the county involved.

Unidentified – thanked the board for highlighting funding as the cost of the project if left just to those in the SAD would cause financial hardships. It will be a challenge in Lansing, given political landscape.

Board comments

Jim Barnwell in response to a comment heard, emphasized he will not be stepping down.

Phil Czech said this board is about sewers, not septic. Would like to see Lyon get to 60-70%.

Bill Lamb wants to revisit buildable lots.

Dave Hall funding is the key. Need community support and not get undermined. Need to rally together.

Jerry McKenna thanked for all the civil comments. Difficult time in Lansing for funding but we need to fight hard for every dollar.

Motion to adjourn by Jerry McKenna, supported by Bill Lamb. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.