

“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 19, 2025 in the Council Chambers in Grand Haven City Hall located at 519 Washington St. Grand Haven, Michigan 49417

MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday November 19, 2025

8:15 A.M.

1. Meeting called to order at 8:15 A.M.

2. Roll Call:

Present:

Chair Ashley Latsch
Vice-Chair Brady Selner
Treasurer Craig Bessinger
Bill Cargo
Steve Namenye
Gordon Gallagher
Joel TePastte

City of Grand Haven
Village of Spring Lake
City of Ferrysburg
Grand Haven Township
Member-at-Large
Spring Lake Township
Village of Spring Lake

Also Present:

Ryan Vredeveld
Matt Wade
Karen Sherwood
Joe Wallace
Emily Greene
Mike Vredeveld

WWTP Superintendent
Grand Haven Township
Grand Haven Township
Ottawa County Road Commission Alternate
City of Grand Haven Finance Director
Vredeveld-Haefner CPA

Absent:

Pat Staskiewicz

Ottawa County Road Commission

3. Approval of the minutes of the August 20, 2025 Sewer Authority Board meeting

Motion by TePastte to approve the minutes, support by Namenye and all in favor motion carries

4. Public Comment

No public comment

5. Financial Report

Superintendent Vredevelde updates the board on the current financials as well as the current fiscal year revenue & expenditures

6. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Vredevelde updates the board on the operations of the plant. Additional quarterly testing's were performed, including PFAS which saw our effluent results come at or below our historical results, keeping us in a monitoring program where we need to meet the minimum testing requirement of two samples a year. Discussion is had about farmer participation in our land application program when asked by board member Cargo. Vredevelde is unsure of the number of farmers who have opted out of the program but maintains that plant staff is concerned that this may be a growing issue as our land application contractor has commented on available fields being an issue at times for various reasons, including farmer's not wanting to deal with the "PFAS issue".

7. General Business.

A. Approval of Sewer Authority Meeting Dates 2026

Motion by Gallagher to approve the proposed 2026 meeting dates, support by TePastte and all in favor motion carries

B. Superintendent Performance Review

Chairperson Latsch informs the Board that a review had been conducted on the performance of the Superintendent by the Executive Committee and that they felt performance had either met or exceeded the expectations of the duties of the Superintendent. The Executive Committee recommended a 2.5% wage increase retroactive to the August 19 promotion date, which is in addition to the COLA increase he already received on July 1.

Motion by Namenye to accept the Executive Committee recommendation, support by TePastte all in favor motion carries

C. Plant Modification Debt Rate

Superintendent Vredevelde provided detail on the 6-year capital improvement plan and the funds required to cover projected costs. Plant staff recommend an increase to the annual contribution rate to \$300,000 up from \$275,000. Conversation is had among members after member Gallagher expressed concerned that we may need to have more discussions about the outlook of the capital improvement projects

and the funding for them. Gallagher asked that the Baker Tilly rate study be resent to Board members and conversation can be had at the next scheduled Sewer Authority Board meeting and plant modification fund. An update came from Ottawa County Road Commission on the Spring Lake Township grant funds they received on behalf of the Sewer Authority and the residents of the township. After the final draw down, the remaining balance is currently \$92,929.15. Cargo also brought up the unbilled revenue calculation from the end of fiscal year 24-25 and the refund of \$24,774.64 due back to all units.

Motion by Gallagher to direct plant staff to inform the finance department of the Boards desire to transfer the refund amount of \$24,774.64 to the plant modification fund, as well as to have plant staff submit project reimbursements to Ottawa County Road Commission to collect on the remaining grant funds of \$92,929.15 plus any interest earned and have those reimbursement funds also rolled into the plant modification fund, support by Namenye all in favor motion carries.

D. Annual Financial Audit Presentation

Financial Audit Report presented by Mike Vredeveld of Vredeveld Haefner LLC CPAs and Consultants. TePastte inquired on the funding of the pension program and Emily Greene informed that the funding is at 67%, which is up from previous year. A net pension and other post-employment benefits liability note was provided to the board as well, providing historical liability for employees/retirees dating back to FYE2022.

Motion by Cargo to accept the “clean” financial audit report, support by TePastte all in favor motion carries.

8. Board Member Comments.

No board comments

9. Announcement of the next Sewer Authority Meeting: February 18, 2026

10. Adjournment at 8:52 A.M.

Sewer Authority Members:

Brady Selner, Vice-Chairperson
City of Grand Haven - Vacant
Ashley Latsch, Chairperson
Craig Bessinger, Treasurer
Steve Namenye
Gordon Gallagher
Patrick Staskiewicz
Bill Cargo
Joel TePastte

Alternate Members:

Wally Delamater

Matt Schindlbeck

Joe Wallace
Matt Wade

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