

“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, February 21, 2024 in the Council Chambers in Grand Haven City Hall located at 519 Washington St. Grand Haven, Michigan 49417

## MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday February 21, 2024

8:15 A.M.

**1. Meeting called to order: 8:17 a.m.**

**2. Roll Call:**

Derek Gajdos	City of Grand Haven Alternate
Treasurer Craig Bessinger	City of Ferrysburg
Wally Delamater	Village of Spring Lake
Patrick Staskiewicz	Ottawa County Road Commission
Karen Sherwood	Grand Haven Township Alternate
Joel TePastte	Village of Spring Lake

**Not Present:**

Steve Namenye	Member at Large
Chairperson Ashley Latsch	City of Grand Haven
Gordon Gallagher	Spring Lake Township
Bill Cargo	Grand Haven Township

**Also Present:**

Ryan Vredevelde	WWTP Superintendent
Cory VanOeveren	WWTP Environmental Compliance Supervisor
Timothy Price	Assistant City Manager – City of Grand Haven

**3. Approval of the minutes of the November 15, 2023 Sewer Authority Board meeting**

*Motion by Bessinger to approve the minutes, support by TePastte and all in favor 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 operations of the treatment facility, NPDES permit compliance, as well as the maintenance activities. Vredevelde also provided updates with ongoing projects. One project is the Sewer Authority property identification and legal work associated with that, Prein and Newhof received the contract for property surveying and all associated paperwork. Second project in process is the Grand Haven pump station force main air release replacement project. Prein and Newhof will be retained for consultant work and plant staff has begun meeting with contractors to discuss scope of work and to receive bids, project is scheduled to be completed by June 2024. Third project is the Spring Lake pump station automatic transfer switch project, Vredevelde updated that the North bank communities have decided to do a full equipment replacement and the updated timeline has the project being completed in the Fall of 2024. Plant staff is also underway with a Feasibility study for an aerobic digester with Prein and Newhof. The study will also provide plant staff with possibilities for plant optimization now for ammonia removal helping us in the now to be NPDES permit compliant in July and August when the facility has its most restricted ammonia limits for effluent discharge.*

## **7. General Business.**

### **A. Budget Presentation for FY 2024-2025**

*Superintendent Vredevelde presented the upcoming fiscal year budget and provided a summary of large capital expenses among other items.*

*New roofs on primary and activated sludge building*

*Tuck pointing and sealing as well*

*2007 Ford truck replacement*

*New front parking lot – City of Grand Haven looking to add public parking*

*Continue to look into optimizing solids handling*

*Continue technical training with operators*

*Continue with community outreach efforts*

*3% decrease in spending but that is due to utilizing cash friends on hand for capital projects*

*Total employee benefits increasing roughly 9.5%*

*Wages increases roughly 6%-employees still in step raises & 3% COLA as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement.*

*Board member Staskiewicz wanted to comment that odor control should continue to be investigated when there's opportunities so we can be sure that we are being "good neighbors". **Plant staff is to get ball park cost of what is needed for improved odor control***

*Motion by TesPastte to approve the present FY 24-25 budget, support from Bessinger and all in favor motion carries.*

**B. Rate Study Proposals**

*Bakertilly – Previous experience with them from 2015 SAW grant (previously Umbaugh). This would be the recommendation from plant staff and from NOWS.*

*Pat S – Would support Bakertilly from his experience. Rate study is overdue*

*Motion to approve Bakertilly rate study for the amount stated in their proposal by TePastte, support from Gajdos and all in favor motion carries.*

**C. Brown & Caldwell Proposal - Regional Solar Biosolids Dryer Conceptual Design Study**

*New innovation to this type of technology that is much more efficient than previous*

*Anticipates significant costs reduction*

*Pat S. – Recommends moving forward with this study. This is necessary to see if this provides a solution. The cost of this study is split between all plants that would be participating in regional facility. All other facilities have either approved or are in the process of approving. Sewer Authority responsible for 21.64% of the total – approximately \$17,900*

*Motion to approve study contingent on full participation by TePastte, support from Bessinger, all in favor motion carries*

**D. Prein & Newhof Proposal – GH-SL SA WWTP Biosolids Dyer**

*Plant staff recommends having a study in parallel with Regional dryer study to determine if a dryer on site would be more beneficial.*

*Dryer would get us to a class A biosolids with a much higher percent solids. This reduces the volume and disposal costs, along with providing options for disposal.*

*Motion to approve study by Bessinger, support from Staskiewicz, all in favor motion carries.*

**E. Evaluation of Plant Superintendent**

*Continue discussion from August 2023 meeting*

*Will discuss at a later time due to absence of Latsch and others*

**F. Sewer Authority Board Organization**

*The Sewer Authority Board Has historically appointed officers at the first regularly scheduled meeting of the year.*

*Current officers are:*

Chair – Ashley Latsch  
Vice-Chair – Bill Cargo  
Treasurer – Craig Bessinger

*Proposed new officers*  
*Chair – Gallagher*  
*Vice Chair – Latsch*  
*Treasurer – Bessinger*

*Motion to nominate by Tepastte, support from Staskiewicz, all in favor motion carries.*

**8. Board Member Comments.**

*No comments.*

**9. Announcement of next Sewer Authority Meeting: May 15, 2024**

**10. Adjournment. 9:19 a.m.**

**Sewer Authority Members:**

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

**Alternate Members:**

Wally Delamater  
  
Derek Gajdos  
Matt Schindlbeck  
  
Joe Wallace  
Karen Sherwood

**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