

Northport/Leelanau Township Utilities Authority  
116 W. Nagonaba, PO Box 158 Northport, MI 49670

Approved Minutes

April 16, 2024

Regular Meeting

**I. CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by Chair McMillan at 9:41 a.m.

**II. ROLL CALL** Board Members Present: Chris Holton, Mike McMillan, James Root, William Harper and Chris McCann. **Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Joni Scott, Clerk Denise Dunn, Deputy Treasurer

**III. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mike McMillan **Moved, Supported by** William Harper to approve the March 12, 2024 Regular meeting minutes as presented. **Motion Carried.**

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**VI. PAYMENT OF BILLS**

William Harper **Moved, Supported by** Chris Holton to approve the bills to be paid for the months of March-April in the amount of \$20,888.50

Roll Call Vote: Yeas (5) Nays (0) Absent (0) **Motion Carried.**

**VII. STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Clerk Report:**

Clerk Scott presented comprehensive financial reports to the Board, including cash transaction details, trial balance, and revenue/expenditure reports. She also provided cost estimates for various repair and replacement projects at the treatment plant, such as repairs to a blower motor, conduit replacement, and repairs to a Landy mixer. These projects were included in the budget adopted by the Board, regardless of the grant outcome. Scott highlighted other anticipated projects for the budget year, including main lift station cleaning, ferric chloride room equipment upgrades, and pump replacements. Additionally, Scott mentioned that with the arrival of spring, the NLTUA has received payment for one new connection in the village and two new connections in the township.

**Deputy Treasurer:**

Deputy Treasurer Denise Dunn reported that since assuming the position on January 2nd, the first deposit of \$79,039.92 has been collected for the debt service. Additionally, there have been ACH deposit transactions totaling \$45,006, bringing the total collected from January 2nd to date to \$124,045.92. Tomorrow, an additional \$25,000 will be deposited, bringing the total to \$149,045.92. Denise reported that she and Clerk Scott are planning to meet to set up a template for making Debt Service payments electronically.

**B. Superintendent Report:**

Superintendent Holton provided a verbal report, mentioning that NPG, a local restaurant, encountered grease issues that required rectification. He conducted a grease trap inspection and will continue monitoring the situation, but it appears to be an internal problem for the business. Holton also discussed upcoming projects, including manual inspections of the mains and the annual or biannual flushing of the force main.

**C. Treatment Plant Operator Report:**

Treatment Plant Operator Justin Straub provided a report on plant operations, noting that everything is running smoothly overall. They experienced a pump failure last month but managed to rectify the issue without any major complications. Straub discussed three specific quotes for equipment repairs and replacements. The first quote pertained to mixer repairs, with one mixer requiring servicing due to water damage. Straub recommended opting for a rebuild instead of purchasing a new mixer, as it is a cost-effective solution. The second quote was for a blower motor replacement, where they decided to refurbish the old motor as a spare rather than purchasing a new one immediately. Lastly, the third quote was for repairing the conduit at the Seventh Street lift station, which was not an adequate size to accommodate additional wiring during pump replacement. The board discussed these quotes and ultimately agreed to proceed with the recommended repairs and rebuild for the Landi Mixer.

William Harper Moved, Supported by Chris McCann to approve the quote to rebuild a Landia mixer in the amount of \$5,880.01. Roll Call Vote: Yeas (5) Nays (0) Motion Carried.

## **VII. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

- **Woolsey Lake Sewer Main Extension**

Superintendent Chris Holton provided an update on the Woolsey Lake Rd sewer main extension and the Scoggins new home build and connection to the sewer. He expressed frustration at the delay in receiving bids for the projects but assured the board that he's been pressing contractors for updates. Holton discussed the possibility of rerouting the sewer line to reduce costs for the Scoggins' property and consulted with the board about seeking legal advice on allowing them out of the Sewer Assessment District (SAD). Board members expressed support for exploring legal options and agreed to seek advice from the township attorney.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Elizabeth Mallek- expressed frustration with the discussion regarding the property owner and the sewer extension. She criticized the selective inclusion and exclusion of properties in the Sewer Assessment District (SAD), referring to it as cherry-picking, hand-picking, and gerrymandering. Mallek highlighted discrepancies in the properties included in the SAD, noting that not all were waterfront properties. She emphasized the unfairness and inequities faced by property owners within the SAD, cautioning against making further exceptions that could exacerbate existing tensions. Mallek urged the board to adhere to the established district boundaries, both ethically and morally.

## **IX. MEMBER COMMENTS**

William Harper expressed his perspective on the situation, acknowledging the controversial history of the decisions made regarding the Sewer Assessment District (SAD). He emphasized the need to focus on the present and future rather than dwelling on past grievances. Harper highlighted the potential financial benefits of keeping the property in the SAD, noting the importance of fiscal responsibility. He also discussed his long-term vision for restructuring the system to address inequities, suggesting a shift away from the current REU system towards a more equitable model once the bond is paid off.

Chris McCann expressed support for considering multiple perspectives and exploring various options, highlighting a shift from previous approaches that may have been more limited in scope. He emphasized the importance of being open to different opinions and ideas, indicating a broader decision-making process within the board.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman McMillan adjourned the meeting at 10:25 am.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Joni L. Scott, NLTUA Clerk