

South County Sewer & Water Authority

(Serving the Townships of Brady, Pavilion & Schoolcraft)

7510 East "Q" Ave., Scotts, MI 49088 Ph (269) 321-8925 Fax (269) 321-8943

Email: office@scswa.org

Website: scswa.org

DRAFT: submitted for approval on _____.

Authority Regular Meeting Minutes of Tues. Jan. 23, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Regular Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Board Chair John Speeter (Pavilion Township Supervisor). In attendance were Tracy Locey (Brady Township Supervisor), Secretary/Treasurer Don Ulsh (Schoolcraft Township Supervisor), Jennifer Sportel (Schoolcraft Township Alternate) and Tim Frisbee (Village of Vicksburg President). Also in attendance was SCSWA Executive Director Frank LaPierre.

Review and Set Agenda-

Today's meeting agenda-R1 was presented for review. Motioned by Ulsh, seconded by Frisbee to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

Review of Minutes-

The draft minutes of the Nov. 28, 2023 meeting were presented for review. Motioned by Ulsh, seconded by Locey to approve the draft minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Hear those present – Councilman John Gisler updated that the Opioids settlement task force will complete its review by the end of January. Mr. Gisler also updated that the County attorney resigned due to their commute from Lansing. Mr. Gisler also provided updates on minor items including Quello travel discount availability and the 4H vanity license plate program that is pending approval.

General Correspondence- N/A

Active Project Status-

- Village of Schoolcraft Update- LaPierre updated that the Village of Schoolcraft is reconsidering the execution of the original Amendment to the SCSWA Articles establishing the Village as an Associate Member of the SCSWA Board.
- St. Joe and SCSWA WWTF Project- LaPierre updated that the Steering committee has held meetings presenting the WWTF Feasibility Study to 4 state legislators from St. Joe and Kalamazoo County with the request for State funding support of the buildout of the WWTF system due to its high cost. Representatives from Senator McCann's office committed to providing a project brief template for the request to be formally submitted for potential ear-mark funding approval in the state's 2024 budget.
- Lockport Water System Expansion Update- LaPierre updated that the Water Feasibility study is currently in-process with results expected in 45-60 days. 2 very productive meetings have been held with J. Rettenmaier and Forming, USA. Both companies expressed strong interest in the availability of municipal water and sanitary services. Forming, USA also offered the potential of locating a water well on their property.

LaPierre also noted that conversations with the Village of Schoolcraft for their potential collaboration and participation in a future Water system are in early stages. Continued discussions are anticipated to be held during the execution of the study.

New Business

- SCSWA Force Main Agreement and Alternatives Review- LaPierre presented the summary that he and Rob Thall created to provide their detailed review of the current agreements between SCSWA and the Village of Vicksburg. As identified in their review, both feel that the agreements, reflect a 50/50% ownership of the force main between SCSWA and Vicksburg. LaPierre also presented that the termination language is vague and potentially reflects a perpetual ownership position of the force main, with a 5-year automatic, "re-up" clause. LaPierre then presented the benefits of the potential for SCSWA to join the future Village of Vicksburg's new Force Main. This includes the avoidance of SCSWA's and Vicksburg's pro-rata share of a future \$3MM capital repair project of the City of Portage, Wells Street Lift Station.
- LaPierre then presented the Prein&Newhof proposal for engineering services to evaluate the feasibility for SCSWA to connect to the new Vicksburg force main. Motioned by Locey, seconded by Ulsh to approve the proposal. **The roll-call vote passed unanimously.**
- LaPierre updated that Thall requested a Conflict-of-Interest Waiver for Attorney Thall and Attorney Kaufman of Thall's firm to negotiate the agreement terms for the joint tenancy of the new force main by SCSWA and Vicksburg. Motioned by Locey, seconded by Ulsh to approve the execution of a Conflict-of-Interest Waiver. **Motion carried.**

Old Business-

- Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation- LaPierre updated as noted above.
- Maintenance Update- The Nov. and Dec. 2023 O/M reports from GLSWA were included for Board review.

Financial Review-

- General Operating Expenses/Check Register/Financial reports- General Operating Expenses and Payroll Expenses were presented as of Jan. 12th, 2024. The SCSWA financial reports of Nov. and Dec. 2023 were presented. Motioned by Locey, seconded by Ulsh to approve the operating and payroll expenses and accept the financials as presented. **Motion carried.**

Closing Comments: Due to the upcoming primary voting process, the February meeting will be held at Schoolcraft Township. Cookies will be catered.

Meeting Adjourned- The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m. Motioned by Locey, seconded by Ulsh to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Feb 27th, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at Schoolcraft Township.

Submitted for approval on: 2-27-24, 2024 Approved by: Don K. Ulsh
Don Ulsh / Secretary