

South County Sewer & Water Authority

(Serving the Townships of Brady, Pavilion & Schoolcraft)

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DRAFT: submitted for approval on 3/26/24.

Authority Regular Meeting Minutes of Tues. Feb. 27, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

Regular Meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m. by Board Vice Chair Tracy Locey. In attendance were John Speeter (Pavilion Township Supervisor), 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 were SCSWA Executive Director Frank LaPierre and Attorney Rob Thall.

Review and Set Agenda-

Thall requested to move up the Articles Revision for approval prior to the agenda approval. Motioned by Ulsh, seconded by Locey. **Motion carried.** Today's meeting agenda was presented for review. Motioned by Frisbee, seconded by Locey to approve the agenda as revised. **Motion carried.**

Review of Minutes-

The draft minutes of the Jan. 23, 2024 meeting were presented for review. Motioned by Ulsh, seconded by Sportel to approve the draft minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

Hear those present – Councilman John Gisler updated on various topics previously presented.

General Correspondence- LaPierre updated that a FOIA will be included in the next board meeting packet.

Active Project Status-

- Village of Schoolcraft Update- LaPierre updated that he and Kuhlman presented at the Village of Schoolcraft council meeting. The level of interest in the Water and WWTF projects was positive. Ulsh and Sportel reinforced their observation of the positive response to the projects by the Village of Schoolcraft. LaPierre updated that a work session is scheduled for 4/2/24 at Lockport Township on the Water Project and include the Village of Schoolcraft, SCSWA and the Lockport Water Board. The agenda will include updates on the water study and possible roles of the municipalities in a future, collaborative water organization.
- St. Joe and SCSWA WWTF Project- LaPierre updated that the WWTF Study engineering firm, JPR, will submit a request for funding to Senator Gary Peter's office for possible earmark funding support from the State of MI.
- Lockport Water Project Update- Ulsh requests that SCSWA continue to lead and be included in the water project management and the potential organization. SCSWA Board members agreed that the potential organization should include SCSWA. Thall confirmed that this could be structured. LaPierre updated that the Water Feasibility study is currently in-process with results expected in May or June. LaPierre confirmed that updates on the water project will be provided to the SCWA Board on an ongoing basis.

New Business

- SCSWA Force Main Agreement and Waiver Review- LaPierre and Thall presented the DRAFT of the waiver to allow Thall's firm to negotiate the Agreements on the Force Main relationship between SCSWA and The Village of Vicksburg. The waiver will go into effective following the approval by the Village of Vicksburg on 3/4/23.
- Prein&Newhof Force Main Feasibility Study: LaPierre provided copies of the Prein engineering feasibility study that was forwarded on Friday 2/23/24. The results provided support that the SCSWA connection and engineering requirements were feasible. LaPierre and Thall reinforced that the CIP requirements presented in the study would be owned by SCSWA and could be financed via the assumption of debt vs cash-based financing. LaPierre reinforced that this is a positive development and provides the opportunity for SCSWA system improvements and the long-term longevity and sustainability to be supported by more favorable debt-based financing vs cash-based financing. All agreed that this development was positive.
- SCSWA Revised 2023/24 Budget- LaPierre presented the revised 2023/24 budget for approval. Motioned by Locey, seconded by Ulsh to approve the revised budget. **Motion carried.**
- SCSWA 2024/25 Rate Schedule- LaPierre presented the 2 versions of the rate study for consideration. LaPierre presented support for his recommendation of Version 1. Motioned by Speeter, seconded by Locey to approve version 1. **Motion carried.**
- SCSWA 2024/25 Budget- LaPierre presented the recommended 2024/25 budget. Motioned by Speeter, seconded by Locey to approve the 2024/25 budget. **Motion carried.**
- 2024/25 DRAFTS of a Rate Letter and Rate Resolutions- LaPierre presented DRAFTs of a rate increase letter and Rate Resolutions. Locey requested that the rate increase letter language be revised to reduce the support language. LaPierre agreed and suggested that he forward a revised DRAFT to Locey for approval. Motioned by Locey, seconded by Speeter to approve a revised rate increase letter and the Rate Resolutions, as presented. **Motion carried.**

Old Business-

- Maintenance Update- The Jan. GLSWA 2024 O/M reports were included for Board review.

Financial Review-General Operating Expenses/Payroll Register/Financial reports- General Operating and Payroll Expenses were presented as of Feb. 16th, 2024. The SCSWA financial reports of Jan. 2024 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: The Board thanked Jim Mallery and Tim Frisbee for the use of their Council Room for the Board Meeting.

Meeting Adjourned- The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 a.m. Motioned by Ulsh, seconded by Locey to adjourn the meeting. **Motion carried.**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Mar. 26th, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at Pavilion Township.

Submitted for approval on: 3 - 24, 2024 Approved by: D. L. Ulsh
Don Ulsh / Secretary