

**GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
GAINES TOWNSHIP  
WATER & SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES ~ June 30, 2014**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Water & Sewer Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Tim Haagsma at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, June 30, 2014 at the Gaines Charter Township (GCT) Offices located at 8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Caledonia, Michigan 49316.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Jan Boone, Jeff Gritter, Tim Haagsma, Don R. Hilton, Sr.  
**Members Absent:** None  
**Others Present:** Sandy Wiltzer, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 25, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

**MOTION:** By Jan Boone supported by Don Hilton to approve the minutes for the February 25, 2014. Water & Sewer Advisory Committee meeting as presented.  
**YES:** Jan Boone, Jeff Gritter, Tim Haagsma, Don R. Hilton, Sr.  
**NO:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None  
**MOTION:** Carried

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**CURRENT MATTERS:**

**a. 901 Windrow, Mr. Jay Morren – Variance Request**

Mr. Jay Morren, 901 Windrow Street SE has requested a variance to use a "PEX" material for his water service. Mr. Morren's house sits approximately 340 feet from the public watermain and the use of PEX over copper would be cost effective for him. The Township along with the BGUA is currently reviewing and revising construction specifications for utility construction and the use of plastic water services including PEX is being considered for certain conditions where the home sits a long distance from the water main. Until these standards are adopted a variance is necessary by the standards of the Water/Sewer Ordinance.

**MOTION:** By Jan Boone supported by Don Hilton to approve the variance request allowing the use of "PEX" over copper material to connect the home at 901 Windrow.

**YES:** Jan Boone, Jeff Gritter, Tim Haagsma, Don R. Hilton, Sr.  
**NO:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None  
**MOTION:** Carried

- b. **6925 Dutton Industrial Drive, Mr. Tyler Kamps** – Variance Request to allow a single water service and sewer lateral to serve more than one premise.

Mr. Tyler Kamps, 6925 Dutton Industrial Drive. Kamps Hardwoods has submitted a request for a variance allowing the use of a single water service for more than one premise. The applicant wishes to have a single water meter connecting multiple buildings. The Township is recommending approval with the requirement that all piping be constructed in accordance with BGUA Specifications and the Plumbing Code. Additionally, Kamps Hardwoods will provide a site plan showing how the plumbing is going to be connected to each of their buildings.

**MOTION:** By Don Hilton supported by Jan Boone to approve the variance request allowing a single water service be allowed to serve more than one premise, providing that all piping be constructed in accordance with BGUA Specifications and the Plumbing Code. Kamps Hardwoods shall also provide a site plan showing how the plumbing is to be connected to each building.

**YES:** Jan Boone, Jeff Gritter, Tim Haagsma, Don R. Hilton, Sr.

**NO:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

- c. **1870 Hollow Creek, Ms. Olivia Williams** – Utility Bill Refund Request.

A refund of sewer use fees is being requested as the landscaping company hired to install an irrigation system did not close an irrigation valve when the system was turned on.

**MOTION:** By Jeff Gritter supported by Jan Boone to approve the Utility Bill Refund Request.

**YES:** Jan Boone, Jeff Gritter, Tim Haagsma, Don R. Hilton, Sr.

**NO:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

- d. **7179 Old Lantern Drive, Mr. and Mrs. Courtney Nelson-Arnett** – Utility Bill Refund Request.

A refund of sewer use fees is being requested due to a faulty sump pump. A back-up water driven sump pump had been installed at some time in the past and the normal sump pump was faulty. The back-up sump pump was a water driven pump working off of the pressure of the water supply system used water to drive the sump pump discharging the water into the yard. The water used did not go into the sewer system.

**MOTION:** By Don Hilton supported by Jan Boone to approve the Utility Bill Refund Request.

**YES:** Jan Boone, Jeff Gritter, Tim Haagsma, Don R. Hilton, Sr.

**NO:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

- e. **7035 Old Lantern Drive, Mr. and Mrs. Robert VanderLugt** – Utility Bill Refund Request.

A refund is being requested due to a leaking valve on the back-up sump pump which caused domestic water to be discharged into the sump pit. The regular electric sump pump then discharged this water out onto the yard.

**MOTION:** By Jan Boone supported by Jeff Gritter to approve the Utility Bill Refund Request.

**YES:** Jan Boone, Jeff Gritter, Tim Haagsma, Don R. Hilton, Sr.

**NO:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION:** Carried

- f. **6461 Paris Avenue, Mrs. Barb Gowdy** – Utility Bill Refund Request.

Mrs. Gowdy is requesting an adjustment to her water bill for unpaid usage for the last three years. An outside meter read out device failed and the Township was unable to get water meter readings in either September or December of 2013. The faulty outside meter has been replaced with a new water meter and radio read out device. The inside meter reading was used to calculate average utility use and to create a subsequent billing. Mrs. Gowdy has asked that the bill be pro-rated to when the meter was installed in 1994.

The Township Ordinance states that pro-rating for utility bills can only spread over three years. The Water & Sewer Committee is not in agreement with Mrs. Gowdy that the amount of the utility bill should be in question.

Tim Haagsma suggested that the Township allow Mrs. Gowdy until December 31, 2014 to pay the past due amount of \$508.25.

**MOTION:** By Jeff Gritter supported by Jan Boone to recommend that the Township Board deny the Utility Bill Refund Request but that the past due balance be payable until Dec. 31, 2014 without penalty or interest.

**YES:** Jan Boone, Jeff Gritter, Tim Haagsma, Don R. Hilton, Sr.

**NO:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**MOTION:** Carried.

**OTHER MATTERS:**

- a. **On-going Projects Update**

**Dutton Industrial Drive Watermain Easement**

The design work for Dutton Industrial Drive is near completion. The design will be submitted to the DEQ for a wetlands permit which will take approximately 30 days. The Township expects to begin the bid process by the end of July, 2014 with construction beginning this fall.

**68<sup>th</sup> Street Widening from Plaza Center Ave to Glen Hollow Dr.**

Eleven hydrants need to be relocated; work is to begin over the upcoming weeks. Service will not be interrupted. Jeff Gritter stated the hydrant tees will be relocated to the back of the hydrant moving forward which should facilitate future construction.

**Burlingame Meter Station (BG2) Upgrades**

The work on the Burlingame Meter Station has been completed. Work went smoothly and without issues.

**Byron-Gaines Northwest Water System Connection**

The installation of the new connection for the Northwest Water System was hampered by a leak. A stone was found imbedded in the seal and the leak was successfully repaired.

**Olthouse – Private Street**

The owners of the Olthouse property located at 7320 Hanna Lake Ave have approached the Township to construct a private street and develop single family homesites on the property. Jeff Gritter said they would need to install water and sewer and the Olthouse's would prefer not to do that. Jeff stated that the Township should pursue putting the trunk sewer into this area to serve this property and also the John Post Property. Jeff stated they have an easement to Hanna Lake for this sewer and extending the sewer to Shadyside Park is the next step. Connecting this development to the water system would not be intensive. The Water & Sewer Committee indicated that this sewer should be pursued in anticipation of future development needs in the area.

**Alliance Beverage**

The project is going well. No issues to report.


**b. Additional extensions of utilities**

1. Caledonia Township received bids two weeks ago and all were higher than anticipated. Caledonia has a deadline of Dec. 31, 2014 to activate the sewer but the Township is reviewing what options they have to rebid the project and extend their deadline to activate the sewer.
2. With activity happening in Byron Township to the west along 84<sup>th</sup> Street it is anticipated that additional development pressure may happen at 84<sup>th</sup> Street and Division. Gaines Township has adequate water supply in the area but the sewer system needs to be extended to meet any more intensive development in this area. Jeff stated that he will be directing Vriesman & Korhorn to explore options for sewer service into this area unless the Committee directs him otherwise. The Committee was in agreement to pursue sewer service to this area of the Township.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Jeffrey M. Gritter, P.E.  
Township Engineer