

ROBINSON TOWNSHIP WATER BOARD

June 24, 2024

The meeting of the Robinson Township Water Board was called to order at 6:13 PM at the Robinson Township Hall.

Present

Bonnie Hayward
Bill Maschewske
Milt Reeths
Kurt Koella
Nate Adamczyk

Absent

None

Also present were Township Supervisor Frank Johnson (7:00 PM arrival) and three members of the public. The attendance sheet is not attached as it contained no names.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Bonnie Hayward and seconded by Nate Adamczyk to approve the minutes of the February 19, 2024 Water Board meeting as written.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Bonnie Hayward and seconded by Milt Reeths to approve the agenda as written.

The motion carried unanimously.

A copy of the agenda is attached.

Action Items are identified in **Bold**.

Business

1. Election of Officers

Nominations were requested for the office of Chairperson. Bill Maschewske nominated Bonnie Hayward. The nomination was seconded by Kurt Koella. There were no other nominations. Bonnie Hayward was unanimously elected Chairperson.

Nominations for the office of Vice-Chairperson were requested. Kurt Koella nominated Nate Adamczyk and the nomination was seconded by Bonnie Hayward. There were no other nominations and Nate Adamczyk was unanimously elected Vice-Chairperson.

Nominations for the office of Secretary were requested. Bonnie Hayward nominated Bill Maschewske and the nomination was seconded by Kurt Koella. There were no other nominations. Bill Maschewske was unanimously elected Secretary.

2. Contract Negotiations with Grand Haven Township on Capacity Increase.

Bonnie Hayward distributed a spreadsheet showing quarterly water usage from Grand Haven Township from 2004 through the first quarter of 2024. It was noted that usage has gradually increased from 2004. In 2023, the average daily water usage on an annual basis exceeded the .047 million gallons per day limit of the contract, as amended in 1998. Bonnie Hayward noted Robinson Township has paid Grand Haven Township (GHT) \$366,949 from 1990 through 2011. Robinson Township needs to request a second amendment to the GHT Water Contract to increase available capacity not only for current users, but particularly since Robinson Township is interested in extending the water line supplied by GHT to additional customers on Ott Lane.

Nate Adamczyk – Is the cost of increasing capacity paid by Robinson Township, the developer, or users?

Bonnie Hayward – Robinson Township pays the cost initially and is reimbursed by users as customers connect to the system.

Bonnie Hayward – Questioned if extending the GHT water line to Ott Lane would result in damage to the new bicycle path being constructed.

Randy Buller – Stated the water line will go on the South side of Green St.

Bill Maschewske – Checked on contract dates to determine if there were any amendments beyond the first in 1998.

Bonnie Hayward – Stated there has been only one amendment.

The question arose whether Robinson Township had the funds to pay for a water line extension. Bonnie Hayward responded that the Township has some monies and it would be financed over a number of years as with previous lines and extensions.

It was noted that a representative of the Water Board should be part of the negotiations with GHT in addition to the Supervisor. Bill Maschewske stated Supervisor Johnson had previously requested him to be that person, however, plans may have changed. At this time, Supervisor Johnson had not yet joined the meeting.

A motion was made by Kurt Koella and seconded by Nate Adamczyk to have Bill Maschewske join Supervisor Johnson as the liaisons to Grand Haven Township to negotiate an amendment for increased capacity of the Robinson Township Water System Contract. If Supervisor Johnson declines, he would be replaced with Bonnie Hayward.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Water Discussion of Stearns area

Milt Reeths – Stated in general the residences on the West side of Stearns Bayou have good quality water but questionable quantity. Residences on the East side of Stearns Bayou have low quality and quantity in general. Milt produced a list of homeowners he talked with on Ott Lane some years ago and provided the list to Bonnie Hayward for duplication.

Bill Maschewske – Noted that following the recent adoption of the updated Master Land Use Plan for Robinson Township, the Master Water Plan needs to be updated to prioritize areas where water utilities should be extended.

Bonnie Hayward – Stated that five wells (both in Robinson and Olive Townships) along Filmore St. East of 120th Ave. have reportedly gone dry. The actual cause is not known (possibly pump failure, ...).

Following a lengthy discussion, the prioritized areas for water extensions were identified as follows.

- A. Albee's Cove up to Stearns Bayou bridge.
- B. Cross the Stearns Bayou bridge.
- C. The East side of Stearns Bayou up to 136th Ave.

Bonnie Hayward agreed to prepare a draft amendment to the Robinson Township Master Water Plan that would identify the above as prioritized expansion areas for public water. This document would be reviewed at the next Water Board meeting.

Bonnie Hayward will contact Pat Staskiewicz, Public Utilities Director for Ottawa County, for two issues. First, to determine how much additional capacity Robinson Township needs to request. Second, to request the opening of negotiations for a second amendment to the Robinson Township Water System Contract with GHT.

4. Ottawa County Water Board Discussion.

Matthew Chapius of the Ottawa County Office of Strategic Impact was present to update the Water Board on current Ottawa County water issues and actions.

Mr. Chapius began by stating the County is trying to expand the usage of the shallow aquifer by revising the minimum depth for shallow wells for irrigation. The approach has issues, however, since some homeowners may try to use irrigation water as potable water and it may not be suitable. This would be a very difficult issue to monitor and may present health risks.

Bill Maschewske – Suggests the Drain Commissioner make efforts to revise the drain system to preserve more water inland to promote recharge of the shallow aquifer.

Supervisor Johnson noted that EGLE wants off-line retention of stormwater for this reason.

Bonnie Hayward – Stated that every road the Township paves requires ditches and drains which take rainwater out to Lake Michigan instead of recharging the shallow aquifer. Additionally, roads are salted in winter and brined in the summer which increases the salinity of the groundwater.

Mr. Chapius continued to note that the best way to regulate water usage will be through Zoning regulations. The goal is to get a better understanding of the groundwater through studies. He noted they are looking for sites to place deep aquifer monitoring wells and Township property could be helpful.

Milt Reeths – Do you have specific sites where you would like to locate monitoring wells. He requested if they have a map identifying these areas.

Mr. Chapius – Noted the Ottawa County Water Board is focused on the deep aquifer and most of Robinson Township residents use the shallow aquifer.

Kurt Koella – Stated that even where the shallow aquifer is being used residentially, the deep aquifer may still be present.

Bill Maschewske requested a map of locations in Robinson Township that would be of interest to the Ottawa County Water Board for monitoring wells. Robinson Township could then review the map and determine if it wished to make any Township property available.

Bonnie Hayward – What is the Ottawa County Water Board goal with Robinson Township?

Mr. Chapius – Stated that large residential lots in subdivisions with irrigated lawns is what they see as a big part of the water supply issue.

Bonnie Hayward – Noted it would be nice if well drillers would report what corrective action they take when a residential well reportedly goes dry.

Bill Maschewske – Suggested that since Ottawa County issues well permits, they have the ability to request such information as part of the permit process. This would be very helpful in identifying the true cause of well issues and the corrective action.

5. Discussion of Previous Water Board Business

Bonnie Hayward was to investigate to determine if it was too late to jointly install a water line across the Stearns Bayou bridge as part of the extensive bridge repair being done along with the construction of the bike path. Bonnie Hayward reported that the bridge construction started immediately after the last Water Board meeting and it was too late to run the water line since the engineering study was already completed.

6. Any and All Other Business That May Come Before the Board

Randy Buller – Where did the Township Water Fund money come from?

Bonnie Hayward – From the General Fund savings. The Township earmarked a percentage for Water Infrastructure.

Randy Buller – Could citizens pay more to get water?

Bonnie Hayward – She does not think it is legal to do a millage for water.

Holden Gilbertson – Do we identify high- capacity water users?

Bonnie Hayward – Individual water usage is available for those on a public water system. The DEQ does not make water withdrawal numbers readily available from their permit system.

Kurt Koella – Noted he has access to the DEQ water withdrawal numbers through his business and could get whatever is requested.

Holden Gilbertson – Lives on Ott Lane. Inquired how the hookup of water would be accomplished.

It was noted that until the engineering was completed, the exact details could not be stated.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Kurt Koella and seconded by Nate Adamczyk to adjourn the Water Board meeting at 8:12 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.

Bill Maschewske, Secretary
Robinson Township Water Board

Attachment: Agenda for June 24, 2024 Water Board Meeting



ROBINSON TOWNSHIP
12010 – 120TH AVENUE, GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417
616-846-2210

A meeting of the Robinson Township Water Board will be held on **Monday, June 24, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Robinson Township Hall.**

AGENDA

- **Call to Order**
- **Approval of Minutes** February 19, 2024
- **Approval of Agenda**
- **Business:**
 1. Election of Officers
 2. Contract Negotiations with Grand Haven Township on capacity increase
 3. Water discussion of Stearn's area
 4. Ottawa County Water Board discussion
 5. Discussion of previous Water Board business
 6. Any and all other business that may come before the Board
- **Adjournment**

The Township will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services at this meeting, such as signers for hearing impaired persons and audiotapes of printed materials for visually impaired person, upon receipt of seven days prior notice. Disabled persons requiring such auxiliary aids or services should so notify the Township by contacting the Township Clerk. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of the Michigan Open Meeting Act, Act 267, and Public Act of 1976

Christine Saddler
Robinson Township Clerk
April 25, 2024