

North Kent Sewer Authority

Regular Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Steve Grimm called the meeting of the North Kent Sewer Authority (NKSA) to order at 2:00 p.m. at the PARCC Side Clean Water Plant, 4775 Coit Avenue, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Present were Board Members Steve Grimm (Chairman/Cannon Township), Cameron VanWyngarden (Plainfield Charter Township), Linda Lehman (City of Rockford - Alternate), Greg Madura (Alpine Township) and Matt McConnon (Courtland Township; arrived after agenda item B under new business)

It was noted that Jean Wahlfield, Alpine Township Clerk, had retired as Township Clerk and was no longer a member of the NKSA Board. Greg Madura has been appointed Board Representative by the Alpine Township Board, with Beth Alt (in attendance at the meeting) as Alternate. All expressed appreciation for Jean's service and welcomed Beth Alt.

Also in attendance were Scott Schoolcraft, NKSA Director, Mark Prein, P.E and NKSA attorney Jim Scales.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by VanWyngarden, second by Madura to approve the May 25, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no members of the public present, and no comments were made.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Director Scott Schoolcraft presented a written report.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Consideration of adopting resolution 2022-03 amending the 2022 budget.

Director Schoolcraft explained the need for the budget amendment resulting primarily from inflation, especially in chemical and biosolids disposable costs. Motion was made by Lehman, supported by Madura, to approve resolution 2022-03, amending the 2022 budget. Motion approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of North Kent Sewer Authority Board of Directors – Secretary.

Motion made by Lehman, supported by VanWynngarden, to appoint Thad Beard as secretary for the remainder of the unexpired term of Jean Wahlfield. Motion approved unanimously.

B. Consideration of approving litigation for machine building roof.

Motion made by VanWynngarden, supported by Madura, to authorize the institution of litigation against the insurance company with respect to the wind damage to the machine building roof. Motion approved unanimously.

C. Consideration of approving proposed 2023 employee compensation.

VanWynngarden discussed reference to the Employment Cost Index of 5.1% as a guideline for the increase in wage levels. The CPI index includes a number of consumer items and may not as accurately reflect increases in wage levels.

Motion made by VanWynngarden, supported by Lehman, to approve a 5.1% increase for all employees in 2023. Motion approved unanimously.

It was noted that it was not the intention of this approval to adopt the ECI for future wage adjustments, but to continue to consider annual wage adjustments on a year-by-year basis.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

There was discussion concerning the potential need for analysis of future budget projections, in consideration of the unusual rates of inflation being experienced. It was also noted that the NKSA connection fees had not been increased for a number of years after having been frozen. These will be subjects of future discussion and possible action.

The 2023 meeting schedule was distributed. There will be no meeting in January of 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Jim Scales
Acting Recording Secretary