

NORTH HOUGHTON COUNTY WATER AND SEWAGE AUTHORITY

DATE: 7/22/24.

Meeting was called to order by Mukavatz at 12:03 PM

**ROLL CALL:** LaRochelle, Primeau, Mukavetz, Gasperich, Zubiena, Coppo

Others Present: Heikkila, Bjorn

*Motion LaRochelle 2<sup>nd</sup> Primeau to approve the June 24th, 2024 minutes as presented; Carried*

***Phase 1 Bond Ordinance:***

Bjorn informed the board that a closing date for the RD Loan was scheduled for 7/29/24. A preconstruction meeting will be scheduled for 7/31/24 contingent on Bonenfant's schedule. The meeting will be held at UPEA's Houghton office to utilize their big screen conference room. Parties to be in the meeting will be RD, NHCWSA, UPEA, Bacco, BnB.

LaRochelle voiced his concern on gravel maintenance/ dust control on Scott St. He also expressed concerns on whether or not the village was notified of our Phase 1 plans. Bjorn stated he would look into who all was notified at the 50% review stage, generally all utility owners are notified at that point.

Bjorn presented a resolution for payment of funds for the North Houghton County Water and Sewage Authority – Sewer Improvements Phase 1 project.

Heikkila informed the board that EGLE visited the Authority in regards to the re-issuance of the groundwater discharge permit. Holmes and Hyrkas were present for visit as well as Jay Parent and Tom Asmus of EGLE. The areas of focus during visit were operation and maintenance of system, History of system, and GWMW historical data and trends. After the visit, Parent did not see any major issues that could cause complications in the re-issuance of the permit.

*Motion Coppo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Primeau to approve the resolution as presented; Carried.*

***Ayes: Gasperich, Primeau, Mukavetz, Zubiena, LaRochelle, Coppo***

***Nays: none***

***Absent: Bonenfant***

***615 Isle Royale Update:***

Heikkila presented the board with a letter from the attorney. The letter had been emailed shortly before the meeting, and corrections to the homeowner's name needed to be made by attorney, but the findings were still correct. This letter is ***ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE CONFIDENTIAL***, but the board can waive that privilege if they wish. Once the letter is corrected to show the correct homeowner's name, the board will move on whether or not they wish to waive said privilege during August's monthly board meeting. Heikkila also informed the board that he was waiting on a letter of determination from the insurer as well.

***Vactor Truck Purchase:***

Heikkila informed the board that he has been in contact with the City of Merrill WI. The delivery of their new Vactor truck is scheduled for this week, or the week of 7/29/24. They would like to sell their current truck at this time. Heikkila presented the board with pictures and a brief description of the milage and condition of truck that the City of Merrill had provided. The board expressed gratitude to the City of Merrill for the continued relationship, and the opportunity to buy another Vactor from them. Zubiena expressed that historically, we have had good luck and the trucks purchased have been in good condition. Heikkila asked the board for approval to purchase the Vactor for the amount of \$240,000.00 contingent upon an inspection and test drive by Rogan and Heikkila. Zubiena asked if we had ample funding, Heikkila presented the Authority account balances, pointing to the Repair and Replace balance with ample funds to cover the purchase of the vactor. Heikkila also informed the board that he is currently working with Best Equipment (Michigan's VacCon Sales Rep) on the value of the Authority's current

vactor. Torch Lake Area Sewer Authority has shown great interest in the truck and is waiting on a price to purchase. Heikkila informed the board that a quick market search found these trucks going from 80-130K based on hours and condition. The funds from the current vactor sale would be deposited back into the repair and replace account.

*Motion Primeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Gasperich to approve the Purchase of the City of Merrill's used Vaccon in the amount of \$240,000.00 contingent upon inspection as presented; Carried.*

***Other:***

Heikkila presented the board with paper copies of the 2023 Audit.

***Public Comment:***

None

*Motion Zubiena, 2<sup>nd</sup> LaRochelle to pay monthly bills totalling \$98,403.80 as presented; Carried.*

*Motion Gasperich, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mukavetz to adjourn at 12:37 pm; Carried.*

Recorded by,

Submitted by,

Cleve Heikkila

Tom Primeau  
Secretary