

NEGAUNEE-ISHPEMING WATER AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
January 15, 2025
WATER TREATMENT PLANT

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Negaunee-Ishpeming Water Authority was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 and was called to order at 4 p.m. by John Jackson.

MEMBERS PRESENT: James Bertucci, Paul Gravedoni, John Jackson and Tony McGrath and Kristen Mariuzza

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kristy Basolo-Malmsten, Plan B Publishing
Jake Forchini, NIWA plant manager

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Paul Gravedoni made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, changing the unpaid bills to \$15,323. James Bertucci seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Paul Gravedoni made a motion to cast a unanimous ballot to elect John Jackson as board chairman. Tony McGrath seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Paul Gravedoni made a motion to elect Kristen Mariuzza as vice chairwoman. James Bertucci seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Tony McGrath made a motion to elect James Bertucci as secretary/treasurer. Kristen Mariuzza seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

James Bertucci made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2024 regular meeting and place them on file. Kristen Mariuzza seconded it, and the motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS & ACCOUNTS:

Tony made a motion to approve the claims & accounts as amended to \$15,323 and to pay the bills. Paul seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jake Forchini said the plant has been running well. The City of Ishpeming had three leaks that they found immediately and fixed. He noted this is good for the wells to help preserve them until a new well can be put online.

Jake noted that during testing, two batteries had melted poles. A surge likely caused it, and he said they were not good quality batteries. He purchased a back-up battery to have on hand, which was a challenge because of the type of batteries that were needed.

Jake said a customer in Negaunee called asking questions about fluoride. He gave as much info as he could, including budget and cost, but ultimately sent her to the city councils as both cities would have to agree to remove fluoride from the water. Jake said he doesn't have a strong feeling about this one way or the other, but noted that the presence of fluoride is a good indicator when trying to find leaks.

Paul Gravedoni made a motion to approve the manger's report and place it on file. Kristen Mariuzza seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Teal Lake Well Project Update—Jake handed out report from Ryan Morgan of GEI that said they are in the design phase. Ryan will be back in February to go over the plan in depth. The design offers an opportunity to add a second well if needed so it wouldn't have to be revamped. The plan is to make it look like other buildings in the area. The board discussed log siding that is from Cattrons, and potential of a metal roof. Jake wants a generator hook-up inside the building in case of power outages. GEI wanted specialized mag meters, but Jake wanted to stick with the old tech so he can get parts for it. Fiber will be run from that building to the plant; it is protected as it would run in the same hole with the water main. Jake also noted he is meeting with City of Ishpeming next Tuesday regarding all the easements.

Tony McGrath asked for Jake to get a quote for upgrading the communications from the wells to fiber. He would like to know the price to upgrade the whole system to fiber. The board also discussed the preliminary drawings to make sure things are where the staff needs them to be for maintenance purposes.

- 2024 Fourth Quarter Board Compensation—The board signed the necessary checks.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- NIWA/Cities Compensation Committee—TABLED

ADJOURNMENT:

Paul Gravedoni made a motion to adjourn at 4:27 p.m. James Bertucci seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Prepared by Kristy Basolo-Malmsten, recording secretary

Approved and respectfully submitted by James Bertucci Secretary/Treasurer