

## **Spring Lake – Lake Board**

### **Draft Meeting Minutes**

Spring Lake Township Hall

101 S. Buchanan Street

January 8, 2024.

4:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Lake Board Members Present: John Nash, Michelle Hazekamp, Carly Scholtz, Roger Vanderstelt, Richard Soldo, Dave Billingham, Josh Brugger, Stephanie Barret, Jim Walters, Shaun McLarty (in place of Joe Bush for the meeting)

Also Present: Paul Hausler Anthony Groves, Hailee Lamorandier, Roger Swets (Bonding), 10 public

#### Introduction of New Board Members

- Introduction of all board members

#### Additions/Corrections to Agenda

- Motion by Brugger seconded by Hazekamp to remove lake board administrator designation from the agenda. All in favor.

#### Review/Approval of December 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes

- Move by Walters seconded by Soldo to approve December 3 meeting minutes. All in favor.

#### Financial Report

- Move by Soldo seconded by Brugger to add information in future financial reports to track the budget versus expenses. All in favor.

#### Public Comment

Mark Gleason introduced John Sluka, a Spring Lake resident, since 1977. Sluka taught biology for many years at Fruitport School and discussed the changes Spring Lake has undergone since 1977. He noted that the native plant elodea had once covered large sections of the lake. This plant was treated many years ago, which led to significant algae blooms. Now, the water has taken on a brownish hue, and he wondered if it was brown algae. Paul Hausler from Progressive Companies responded that the brown water was most likely caused by diatoms (a type of algae that isn't always toxic) and/or tannins (natural materials from decaying vegetation and soil). Sluka remarked that having the plants is better than the algae, and the removal of the plants has likely caused algae blooms. Hausler agreed, explaining that the large removal of aquatic plants can contribute to the blooms due to an abundance of nutrients. He also clarified that Progressive and the Lake Board do not pursue the treatment of native plants unless they pose a significant navigational issue. This is because the plants provide important ecological benefits, the main goal of the program is to target invasive species.

Greg Pastotnik from Petty's Bayou raised concerns about sediment buildup near his house. The area was dredged in the 1960s but has not been dredged since. He expressed a desire to discuss possible solutions. Hausler mentioned cultural eutrophication over time and assured Pastotnik that Hailee would monitor the area during upcoming surveys. The board would like to also work alongside homeowners to keep an eye on the situation.

Kathy Nash, from Petty's Bayou, noted how clear the lake is now compared to the summer and asked about the cause of the difference. Hausler explained that there is less surface runoff, fewer people disturbing the lake, and a lack of fertilizer entering the lake were contributing factors. Also, algae does not grow as well in cooler temperatures and is likely dormant.

Rosali, another Spring Lake resident, inquired whether alum helps with phosphorus. She wondered why phosphorus still persists after the last alum treatment. Hausler explained that phosphorus continues to enter the lake from various sources, and internal loading is still occurring. While alum helps reduce phosphorus, it is not a complete solution. He also mentioned that a meeting on March 26th would address the watershed and explore potential actions to take, focusing on areas surrounding the lake rather than directly in it.

#### Bond Authorization Resolution

Roger Swets presented an overview of the bond resolution, explaining that \$3.5 million is needed for the alum treatment, with \$1 million already available. Due to the funds on hand, the payment period will be 8-9 years instead of 10. The bond's interest rate will not exceed 7%, but it is unlikely to reach that limit. The bond must be fully paid by June 2033, and the public sale will be awarded to the bidder offering the lowest true interest cost. Brugger inquired about the total interest amount. The payment to Rover and his company was asked and clarified that these payments come from the board and were included in the alum treatment cost when first deciding if to proceed or not. A request was made for a breakdown of the bond cost and the payments to Roger and his company to be sent to the board so that all members have copies.

A motion to approve the bond resolution was made by Nash and seconded by Scholtz. A roll-call vote was held, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

#### Revision to Special Assessment District

Sixteen back lots are not currently included on the roll. Groves investigated this and found that, in 1951, these lots had access along Elk Road; however, houses now occupy this area. The board must decide whether to add these 16 lots to the roll. Groves expressed hesitation about adding the back lots, as the township and village are working through issues with the residents. Move by Nash seconded by Billinghurst to table issue until the township and village resolve issue with residents. All in favor.

#### Website Update Presentation

Hausler presented the new Spring Lake website to the board, noting that a few changes would be implemented in the coming weeks.

It was suggested that when sending letters about the alum treatment, they should also include information about fertilizer being applied to lawns. Representatives will give a presentation to their respective municipalities once a year. A motion was made by Nash and seconded by Dave to hold an end-of-year fall meeting for each municipality. The motion passed unanimously.

The board requested that Progressive send the minutes and agenda to them two weeks before meetings, as Progressive will now be publishing the agenda one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

Adjourn at 6:14 p.m.