

**Spring Lake - Lake Board
Meeting Minutes**
Spring Lake Township Hall
101 S. Buchanan Street
July 24, 2024
4:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 4:00 pm.

Members Present: John Nash, Joe Bush, Roger Bergman, Dave Billingham, Brenda Moore, Michelle Hazecamp, and Roger Vanderstelt.

Members Absent: Samantha Verplank.

Also Present: Tony Groves and Paul Hausler, Progressive Companies and about 15 public in attendance.

Lake Board Members Introduced.

Additions/Corrections to Agenda: None

Election of Board Chair: Motion by Bergman seconded by Vanderstelt to appoint John Nash as lake board chair. All in favor.

Election of Waterfront Property Representative: Discussion ensued about the process for appointing a new lake property owner representative. Nash had talked with some potential candidates for the position and the board decided it best to post a notice of the vacancy on the website and to request information from interested individuals on their availability to attend meetings, their time on the lake, and their general qualifications for the position. Groves will prepare a notice of the vacancy for posting on the website and interested candidates will be directed to submit their information to Gordon Gallagher at Spring Lake Township prior to the next lake board meeting scheduled for August 28. Motion by Bergman seconded by Billingham to initiate appointment process. All in favor.

Draft Meeting Minutes: June 12, 2024, meeting minutes were reviewed. Motion by Bergman seconded by Moore to approved minutes. All in favor.

Financial Report: Bush presented a financial report dated 07/22/2024 which showed a current fund balance of \$720,034.39. Motion by Moore seconded by Bergman to accept financial report. All in favor.

Response to City of Ferrysburg Concerns: Groves explained that he had attended a meeting of the Ferrysburg City Council to answer questions about the project and to request that the city council reconsider the full faith and credit resolution required to obtain affordable financing for the project. The City Council rejected the request. It was noted that both Spring Lake Township and Fruitport Charter Township had already passed the bond resolution. Groves noted that, based on his conversations with our financial advisors, all three municipalities around the lake would need to adopt the bond resolution to obtain low interest financing. This is true even though only about 27% of the cost of the project is derived from the Ferrysburg portion of the assessment district. Motion by Bergman seconded by Moore to post the responses to Ferrysburg concerns on the lake board website and to send the responses to Ferrysburg requesting reconsideration of the full faith and credit resolution. All in favor.

Consultant's Report:

Hausler provided an overview of the scope and cost of plant control work completed on the lake to date and noted the limitations on treatments currently imposed by EGLE. An additional lake survey and possible treatment of the lake will occur in August.

Hausler and Groves explained that although the alum treatment project was widely advertised, a bid in the amount of \$3,329,738 from Solitude Lake Management was the only bid received for the project. This was not surprising given the size and complexity of the project and the fact that this type of work is highly specialized. The bid amount is consistent with the original cost estimate for the project. The proposal from Solitude Lake Management was distributed to board members and it was noted that the company has years of experience conducting large-scale alum treatments and is well qualified to do the work. It was recommended that the lake board consider awarding the alum treatment contract to Solitude Lake Management contingent on the lake board being able to obtain financing for the project. Several board members expressed the desire to take additional time to review the proposal and would consider a formal award of a contract for the work at the next lake board meeting scheduled for August 28.

DeHaan Assessment: Since a Release of Easement document has been received and filed with the Ottawa County Register of Deeds that extinguishes lake access to the DeHaan property, it was moved by Moore and seconded by Bergman that the DeHaan parcel be removed from the assessment roll. All in favor.

Public Comment: Several in attendance asked questions and offered observations and comments about the project. Questions included how direction is provided to the plant control contractors? Where are the floating weeds coming from? Appropriate plants for lakeside landscaping? How to report algae blooms and dumping of materials into the lake? What can be done to improve the navigation of the website? Some observed that while the original alum treatment improved conditions in the lake, the lake is currently in bad shape with algae everywhere. Some local stores are still selling fertilizer containing phosphorus. It was suggested that the lake board should be more proactive in providing information to lake residents.