

# ONTWA

## TOWNSHIP Township of Ontwa \* County of Cass \* State of Michigan

[www.Ontwatwp.org](http://www.Ontwatwp.org)

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### WASTEWATER BOARD MEETING

May 22, 2024 @ 6:30 PM

#### Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Mike Mroczek called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

#### Roll Call

Chair Mroczek took roll call. Members present: John Brandt, Jeff VanBelle, Dan Stutsman, John Bossler and Dave Stiffler. Absent – Bruce Cassady

**Public Comments (3 minutes per person)** - there were no public comments.

**Approve Agenda** Member Stutsman made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Member VanBelle supported the motion. All member present vote Yea, no Nays. **Motion carries.**

#### Approve Last Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2024

Member VanBelle made the motion to approve as presented. Member Bossler supports the motion. All members present vote yea, no nays. **Motion carries.**

**Financial Report** The financial report was included in the packet. Chairman Mroczek pointed out the system is operating approximately 10% under budget at this time. About the same as last year at the same time. No substantial increase. Discussion followed.

#### Wastewater Report - Administrator Brigid Forlenza

1. **IAI Reports** – Reports are included in the packet.  
Monthly operations report of collection system (gallons generated)  
February 2024 – 10,155,000 gallons  
March 9,956,000  
April 10,536,000

The collection system continues to operate in excellent condition.

#### 2. Waste Water Report

##### NOTES FROM MARCH AND APRIL 2024

- Rate Study documents sent to Baker Tilley – report pending
- Semco line moved by Village water plant – new manhole installed.
- Edwardsburg Sports Complex; meter read prior to Lacrosse Tournament – money is due.
- Odallogger – end of pipe – operational.
- Sent document to lawyer regarding bonds. Paid off Cass County – April 2024
- The lawyer working on document for Seven Diamonds – development of Eagle Ridge for lift station.
- Gravity line cleaning week of April 29<sup>th</sup> – B1, B2, & Eagle Lake – complete.
- Pumps at C2 are 20+ years old (one failed) – ordered.
- Informed by Engineer from CCRC that the Road Commission is planning to abandon Section Street Road End. Wastewater has gravity line running through road end. The Attorney for Ontwa Township Wastewater has been contacted regarding easement assets in road end.
- Letter disseminated to St. Joseph County Wastewater and Sewer district regarding July 1, 2024 rate increase of 5% from Elkhart County Public works. Administrator has informed the Wastewater board regarding future rate increases 2025 through 2028.

#### Unfinished - Old Business

Nothing to report.

## New Business

1. Lift Station Lining – B3 & B4. In progress. Waiting to hear back from Wightman.
2. Detroit Pumps – C2. **A motion is made by Member Stutsman to accept the proposal from Detroit Pump to replace the submersible pump at C2 not exceed \$13,000. Member VanBelle supports the motion. Discussion follows. A roll call vote is taken and all members present vote yea. Motion Carries.**
3. Bonds - Per Review of the bond documents by Ontwa Township Wastewater Attorney, Mark Nettleton, the following applies:
  - Section 18 of the Bond Contract further provides that: “At such time within said forty-year term as all of said Bonds are paid, this Contract shall be terminated and *ownership of the Project and all System assets and related rights in land shall revert to the [Township]*, unless at that time there are other County bonds outstanding relative to the system.”

The use of the word “shall” in section 18 to provide that ownership of the Project and all System assets “shall revert” is definitive – there is no indication from this language that the Township needs to request that the County convey the assets or interests in land for the System to the Township. By the language of the Bond Contract, ownership passes upon repayment of the Bonds and fulfillment of the Township’s obligations under the contract.
  - Further it is advised that the County conveys assets from County to Township so ownership can be recorded at the Register of Deeds.
4. Section Street Easement – Administrator Forlenza and Member VanBelle will work with Wightman’s Engineers. A survey will be needed to be completed and sent to Wastewater Attorneys.

Wastewater Administrator requests to Board Chairman Mroczek to amend the agenda and add #5 – ISCO Equipment, in New Business on the Agenda. Chairman Mroczek approves. All members support.

5. ISCO Equipment – Administrator Forlenza included in the packet a Sampler Package of Teledyne ISCO Refrigerators. Discussion followed. This is a project for the near future. Administrator Forlenza will get a quote for the Model 5800 refrigerator sampler from Teledyne and have additional information for the WW Board’s next meeting.

**Member Brandt makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Member VanBelle supports the motion to adjourn. Meeting is adjourned at 7:24 PM.**

Submitted By: Lori Mroczek, Recording Secretary