

A regular meeting of the Gratiot Area Water Authority was held at the Alma Public Library and called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Chairman Kurt Giles. A quorum of the Authority Board was present.

Roll Call

Authority Board members present: Kurt Giles, Aeric Ripley, Roxann Harrington, Bill Leonard, Kevin Palmer and Kasey Zehner.

Authority Board members absent: None.

Others present: David Ringle and Curtis Dancer.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Authority Member Harrington, seconded by Authority Member Leonard, to approve the Agenda, as amended. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Aye: Giles, Ripley, Harrington, Leonard, Palmer and Zehner.

Nay: None.

Absent: None.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Authority Member Palmer, seconded by Authority Member Ripley, to approve the minutes of January 9, 2026, as amended and January 30, 2026, as amended. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Aye: Giles, Ripley, Harrington, Leonard, Palmer and Zehner.

Nay: None.

Absent: None.

Communications

Requests for Payment

Requests for Purchase

Chairman Giles offered discussion on the request purchase a duplex compressor from Grainger. Brief discussion followed.

Motion by Authority Member Palmer, seconded by Authority Member Harrington, to approve the purchase of backflow device replacements from John E. Green Company. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Aye: Giles, Ripley, Harrington, Leonard, Palmer and Zehner.

Nay: None.

Absent: None.

Recommendations on Bids

New Business

Resolution 2026-001

GRATIOT AREA WATER AUTHORITY
2026-2027 Operating Budget

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Gratiot Area Water Authority Board (GAWA Board) held at the City of Alma Municipal Building, 525 E. Superior Street, Alma, Michigan held on the 1st day of May 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

Present: Kurt Giles, Aeric Ripley, Roxann Harrington, Bill Leonard, Kevin Palmer and Kasey Zehner.

Absent: None.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Harrington and seconded by Member Ripley.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Gratiot Area Water Authority Articles of Incorporation, ARTICLE XI.C., the Board shall, prior to March 1 of each year, prepare, adopt and file with the legislative bodies of the Constituent Municipalities, an annual budget for the next fiscal year covering the proposed expenditures to be made for the organization and operation of the Authority, and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has submitted and filed with the Gratiot Area Water Authority Board (Board) a proposed estimate of revenues and operating expenses for 2026-27 fiscal year on May 1, 2026. Lateness of this budget being due to time constraints and workload of available respective staff.

WHEREAS, a five year plan of capital improvements was filed on May 1, 2026.,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board does hereby adopt the operating budget as presented and attached said Total Operating Expenses being \$1,395,464, with total expenses including depreciation expected to be \$2,424,154. Capital Improvements to be paid from replacement reserves for the 2026-27 year are expected to be \$339,000.

Ayes: Giles, Ripley, Harrington, Leonard, Palmer and Zehner.
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

Resolution declared adopted this 1st day of May 2026.

Resolution 2026-002
GRATIOT AREA WATER AUTHORITY
Wholesale Water Rate Change

Minutes of a Regular meeting of the Gratiot Area Water Authority held at the City of Alma Meeting Room, 525 E Superior St. Alma, County of Gratiot, Michigan held on the 1st day of May 2026, at 12:00 P.M.

Present: Kurt Giles, Aeris Ripley, Roxann Harrington, Bill Leonard, Kevin Palmer and Kasey Zehner.
Absent: None.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Harrington and supported by Member Zehner.

WHEREAS, the Gratiot Area Water Authority has determined that all operational costs will be covered by rates each year and as much of depreciation shall be funded as possible without causing an unreasonable increase in fees.

WHEREAS, the Gratiot Area Water Authority has tasked its Finance Committee to recommend a rate reflective of such desires, and such committee has offered a recommendation of an increase.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED, the Gratiot Area Water Authority Board of Directors will set the wholesale water rates to the cities of Alma and St. Louis at \$3.80 per thousand-gallon unit, effective with service beginning July 1, 2026.

Ayes: Giles, Ripley, Harrington, Leonard, Palmer and Zehner.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Resolution declared adopted this 1st day of May, 2026.

Chairman Giles offered discussion on the Proposed Transition of Accounting Services between the City of St. Louis and City of Alma for the Gratiot Area Water Authority. Curtis Dancer, Finance Director for the City of Alma, said that the authority's Finance committee would look at the budget and rate increases annually. The board will consist of Curtis, Bobbie Marr – City of St. Louis Finance Director, and a member of the GAWA board.

Motion by Authority Member Zehner, seconded by Authority Member Harrington, to approve the five-year Capital Improvement Program. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Aye: Giles, Ripley, Harrington, Leonard, Palmer and Zehner.

Nay: None.

Absent: None.

Unfinished Business

Reports

Chairman Giles offered discussion on the Financial Statements through April 2026. Brief discussion followed.

Motion by Authority Member Harrington, seconded by Authority Member Ripley, to receive the Financial Statements April 2026. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Aye: Giles, Ripley, Harrington, Leonard, Palmer and Zehner.

Nay: None.

Absent: None.

Appropriations

Motion by Authority Member Palmer, seconded by Authority Member Zehner, to approve and ratify the claims and accounts through April 2026 in the amount of \$386,398.16. Motion carried with a voice vote.

Aye: Giles, Ripley, Harrington, Leonard, Palmer and Zehner.

Nay: None.

Absent: None.

Public Comment

Adjournment

Motion by Authority Member Harrington, seconded by Authority Member Palmer, to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Giles adjourned the meeting at 12:28 p.m.

Kim Fellows, Recording Secretary

Date of Approval