

Gogama Local Services Board
Special Board Meeting – August 3, 2021

MINUTES

1. **Call meeting to order and roll call**

Daniel Mantha, presiding as Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:40PM then turned the floor over to the Secretary Treasurer to lead the meeting.

Present

Daniel Mantha – Chairperson
Gilles Veronneau – Vice Chairperson
Bernard Souliere – Board Member
Alain Constantin – Board Member
Richard Gravelle – Board Member
Christine Bedard – Secretary Treasurer

Absent with Regrets

Guests in attendance:

Eric Neilson – Regional Manager, Northeastern Ontario – Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA)
Chad Byce – Team Lead, ORO – Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA)

2. **Introductions**

The Secretary Treasurer introduced the guests from OCWA to the current Board members and thanked OCWA for attending.

3. **Declaration of conflict of interest**

For the specific purpose of this meeting, the Secretary Treasurer declared that board member, Richard Gravelle, was in conflict being that he is an OCWA employee as well as a board member.

4. **Acceptance of agenda**

The Secretary Treasurer asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

The motion to accept the agenda was moved and seconded by the Board.

Motion Carried

5. **Well House & Water Treatment Plant**

5.1 WTP back up generator failure

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the purpose of the special meeting was to have OCWA outline to the Board the laws and regulations surrounding water and sewer and to speak to the occurrence of July 19, 2021 whereas the backup generator at the water treatment plant failed to automatically start when the loss of power occurred.

The floor was given to Mr. Eric Neilson from OCWA to take the Board through a revision of laws and protocols.

Water Regulations as they pertain to loss of power situations

Mr. Neilson stated that all water facilities are governed to follow the Safe Drinking Water Act and more specifically to this occurrence, regulations 169 and 170;

OCWA responsibilities vs. GLSB responsibilities

He went on to state that the laws regarding who is allowed to access such facilities is limited to the ORO or certified operator, in this case, OCWA personnel and ORO in Gogama, Richard Gravelle.

Under this regulation, an ORO or certified operator may access the facilities with the purpose of disinfecting, monitoring, testing and maintenance/overall operations of the facilities. In the event that someone other than the ORO or certified operator is required to enter the premises, they may only do so if the person is certified to perform the specific work being requested and only under the direct supervision of the ORO or certified operator.

Mr. Neilson stated that although he believes that the Board's maintenance contractor may be extremely knowledgeable in all matters related to the back up generator, according to the laws, the maintenance contractor must be certified and must be supervised by the ORO or certified operator.

That being said, Mr. Neilson stated that with all plants operated by OCWA, it is the ORO that performs the monthly generator testing and OCWA maintains a certified contractor of record that performs annual generator inspections and maintenance. Mr. Neilson confirmed that to date, Gogama was the only exception to this process as there had never been any occurrences that would require implementing a different protocol.

Where does GLSB responsibilities end and OCWA begin

Mr. Neilson clarified that in instances such as the occurrence of July 19, 2021, he recognizes that although the Gogama Local Services Board are the owners of the facility, under the laws outlined in the Safe Drinking Water Act, that is where the Board's responsibility ends and OCWA's responsibility begins.

Back up to local OCWA employee

Mr. Neilson confirmed for the Board that the ORO is essentially on-call 24/7 and is equipped to receive alarms when system failures occur. He stated that sometimes, Gogama's ORO may not be readily available at the time of an alarm and in the event that the ORO cannot attend, a back up is sent in his place. He further explained that when a loss of pressure is experienced in the system, the laws mandate that a drinking water advisory be put into effect and testing performed until such time as the Health Unit is satisfied that the water is once again safe to drink.

Fire Protection for the Community

A Board member asked what the laws stated regarding Fire Protection for the community should a fire occur during which time there is no water in the hydrants.

Mr. Neilson stated that he would have his compliance officer look into the matter and provide the Board with an answer. The Board and OCWA discussed specific contingencies that could be put in place by the fire department such as having enough hose on hand should they be required to draw water from a nearby lake or body of water should there be no water at the hydrants.

Mr. Neilson reiterated the importance of having only the ORO turn the water back on and begin the regulated process even in instances of fire protection. Mr. Neilson stated that should such a situation occur, the Board or fire department could confer with a certified operator over the phone and could, in all likelihood receive verbal approval.

Summary discussion of events following generator not starting

The Board and OCWA further discussed the process required to make changes to the current agreement regarding servicing, testing and maintenance of the generator. The Board discussed and agreed that the maintenance contractor would be contacted via email and advised of the changes being made to their contract for the remainder of the fiscal year regarding accessing of the water/sewer facilities buildings.

The Secretary Treasurer asked for a motion to approve the formal communication to the maintenance contractor regarding the changes to the maintenance contract as it pertains to the water/sewer buildings.

Richard Gravelle declared a conflict and abstained from voting.

The motion to approve the formal communication to the maintenance contractor regarding the changes to the maintenance contract as it pertains to the water/sewer buildings was moved and seconded by the Board. Motion Carried

The Secretary Treasurer asked for a motion to approve the purchase of a new transfer switch for the water treatment plant system.

Richard Gravelle declared a conflict and abstained from voting.

The motion to approve the purchase of a new transfer switch for the water treatment plant system was moved and seconded by the Board. Motion Carried

The Secretary Treasurer asked for a motion to approve the change form to OCWA to effectuate the monthly testing of the back up generator by the ORO and annual inspection and maintenance service by OCWA's certified contractor.

Richard Gravelle declared a conflict and abstained from voting.

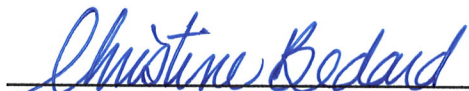
The motion to approve the change form to OCWA to effectuate the monthly testing of the back up generator by the ORO and annual inspection and maintenance service by OCWA's certified contractor was moved and seconded by the Board. Motion Carried

6. **Deputations or Delegations or Discussions from the floor - NONE**

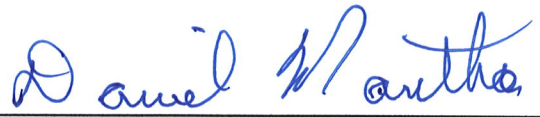
7. **Adjournment**

As there was no further Board business to discuss related to this matter, the Secretary Treasurer asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15PM was moved and seconded by the Board. Motion Carried



Christine Bedard – Secretary Treasurer



Daniel Mantha - Chairperson