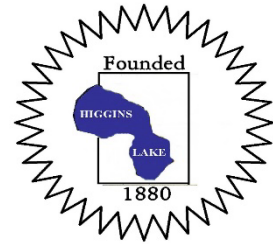


# Memorandum



To: **Gerrish Township Board/Community**  
cc: file  
From: **Supervisor Hill**  
Date: **01/28/2025**  
Re: **Supervisor January 2025 Board Report**

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**For the month of January 2025, I am submitting the following report:**

This month the board continues to consider addressing the timeline of applications for the Health of Higgins Lake Steering Committee that the board authorized to exist recently. We are dedicated to providing an organized process to better understand what is needed for the health of our lakes moving forward by providing the data, process and productive discussions necessary to define actions for the future.

This month, the Board took on a Gerrish Township Attorney prepared resolution to rescind the previous Special Assessment District that had been passed by the previous board. The resolution passed 5-0 to rescind same by a roll call vote. This does not mean that we feel that the true work is done to look at various solutions to assist in mitigating the overall health of Higgins Lake. It is incumbent upon us all as board members, citizens and community to move forward with productive meaningful discussion and some mitigating actions as necessary in the coming years. The board felt the existence of the SAD item further divides our community as we talk about paths forward to take care of our beautiful lake.

This month, one would note on the Gerrish Township website that we are in the process of addressing many termed out positions on various representative boards and committees.

In line with looking at all the committees and boards, I discovered that the Gerrish Township Parks and Recreation Committee was overpopulated from the Circa 2016 Committee document. In short, somehow over the last several years it has grown to 9 members and was only authorized by a previous board for 7 members. Additionally, the makeup was not followed either. Therefore, I have drafted a new set of authorizing languages for the board's review in February to straighten this out. Once the document is approved by the board, we will open applications for the positions for 30 days and essentially re-construct that committee going forward. Discussion will center around staggering terms, length of terms etc. More to follow in February 2025.

We have collected the next set of water samples here at the hall for a heavy metals test and iron content test. We will react to this and apply the necessary solutions to mitigate accordingly.

I chaired the January work session, January regular Township meetings and a second 2025-2026 budget work session as required to conduct the Township's business in a public forum.

Prior to our second budget work session, I met with Treasurer Anderson to review our projected revenues, and they were placed in a proposed 2025-2026 Budget proposal for the full board for discussion at the second work session. I am happy to report that we are financially positioned better than I had initially expected. During my initial review of expenses only with the Clerk's office, we found that some lines had been double budgeted, and over budgeted while others were underfunded in certain lines without comment in the past. The board will have a final comment on the proposed budget for the February 2025 work session. We will then approve the proposed budget (with any changes) and have available 30 days prior for public consumption. I want to thank the Clerk and Treasurer in collaborating with each other and with my office in this process. Treasurer Anderson was able to examine our accounts, general ledger and get us to a day-to-day system in less than two months. In the previous 2 years, this was not achievable for a variety of reasons.

At the above budget meeting, we talked about the General Township's need For addressing and perhaps reserving certain amounts of fund balance to address our again infrastructure. Also, we agreed to have Treasurer Anderson and I work on a 3-5 year budget projection for more of a road map for the

future and perhaps future board's to rely on as it relates to proper budgeting and care of infrastructure. In looking over the budget it was obvious that something needs to be done with providing funds for the Cemetery in the future. Most all the old lots are sold, occupied or previously purchased and the Cemetery is operating negatively. The New (South) section has not been officially open for sale. We will need a plan in place to capture some of the sale money for the future in a reserve. The well, waterlines and future waterlines will need to be addressed as well in some Capital improvement fiscal plan. Additionally, we believe it is time to begin informally thinking about the Gerrish Township Park and Marina Property abilities post pay-off of same. Ultimately, a committee will need to be formed to focus on the assets. After March 2025 payment, we will have 5 payments left before being unencumbered by the State influence for what can be done within.

The Township has been preparing for the recent Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) that takes effect on February 21, 2025. We are also monitoring two House Bills that do change the ESTA language. They passed the Bills in the House and have sent to the Senate for their work. Certainly, more to follow. The Clerk's office, Treasurer's office attended a knowledge session held by Michigan Township's and I am scheduled in the middle of February 2025 to do the same. We are being proactive.

I continue to meet with Clerk Squires to prepare the work session and regular meeting agenda this past month to ensure we have accurate, timely information for board members prior to the meeting.

Trustee Ostling has been doing an excellent job in his liaison role with GLUA keeping the board up to date on matters of GLUA. Two Gerrish Township GLUA positions have been posted as two of the current members terms need addressing. These positions are open for applications until February 9, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m.

As a further note on the Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority, I met with Supervisor Bertrand of Lyon Township. I was accompanied by Trustee Ostling as the GLUA Liaison to our board on a couple of occasions. We explored a range of opinions/possible options of any possible way forward that places Gerrish and Lyon in agreement on a way forward to benefit the health of the lake. One has to remember the GLUA articles of Incorporation were authored to work to a

sewer project conclusion. The discussions were productive at times. Much discussion has been had with a varying degree of opinion regarding the ability to deviate from the initial investments written into the original grant. Some feel the project money from Washington can be "tweaked" to provide for what has been discussed. Some believe that it cannot be. The original grant writer has made several contacts with Washington to answer questions and provide her understanding of the explanations on deviations. Many hands have been in the pie per se to this point.

In line with the last paragraph and GLUA discussion, Trustee Ostling and I have met twice with our Township Counsel to discuss the legalities moving forward to protect Gerrish Township's interests accordingly.

This month, I attended an all-day training class. The first half of the day was for "New Board Members" and the second half of the class was for "New Supervisors." The class was hosted by the Michigan Township's Association and held at Gaylord Treetops Conference Center.

At the request of the Roscommon County Board of Commissioners, I attended a work session to be available for introduction and questions regarding the recent Roscommon Township Association (RTA) appointment to represent same on the Roscommon County 911 Authority Board on the RTA's behalf.

In accordance with the last, I attended the January 911 Authority Board meeting as requested.

In closing, as last month, I want to remind all in understanding how I manage my day at work. I am at work at 7:00 a.m. in the morning and will be here until 3:00 p.m. Monday-Friday on most days barring other professional appointments to keep me or my family healthy. Also, not all my meetings on behalf of my office or Township business are in the building. I also frequently visit sites in the Township when necessary to understand some stated problems that people call in on. My schedule is posted on my door. I am happy to meet personally with folks, but I do appreciate a scheduled appointment so I can give my undivided attention to your concerns. Please call me at 989-821-9313 ext. 229.

Respectfully given,

*Brian A. Hill, Supervisor*

Cc/file

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