



Gerrish Township

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GERRISH TOWNSHIP, Roscommon County, MI. March 24, 2025.

Gerrish Township passes follow-up Motion to establish necessary steps to dissolve the Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority (GLUA).

Previously, Constituent Municipality Lyon Township determined it would not move forward with the previously proposed step-sewer system project, nor the next step of a special assessment process and all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict shall be rescinded. Lyon Township further adopted a Resolution it will not pursue a recommendation by the Lyon Township Planning Commission to rezone the previously proposed GLUA treatment site from C-1 Commercial to M-1 Light Industrial as the Lyon Township Board is not in favor of the step-sewer treatment plant site as presented.

Gerrish Township also determined that it was rescinding its prior approval for a special assessment to help fund the project and that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with that determination are also rescinded.

Since then both the GLUA Board and Constituent Municipality Gerrish Township have passed corresponding resolutions to begin the process of dissolving the authority by March 31, 2025 due to the elimination of the reasons for creation of GLUA. That purpose was defined as to acquire, own, improve, enlarge, extend or operate a sewer service system in Gerrish and Lyon Townships.

There have been suggestions GLUA should not dissolve in an effort to receive a 1 Million Dollar grant it was awarded from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish a municipal sewer system. A communication in writing has been received from Congressman Jack Bergman's office that the EPA has voided the \$1 million award, and neither GLUA nor any other community

entity will be receiving these funds. The funding request submitted by GLUA in March 2023 was specifically intended for the construction of a sewer system for the Higgins Lake area, and any other use of the funds outside of a sewer project was prohibited. While previous communications from Congressman Bergman's office or the EPA may have suggested that the funding could potentially be retooled for a different sewer project than the originally proposed STEP system, the requirement remained that it had to be used for a sewer project. With GLUA no longer moving forward with the sewer project, the EPA has rescinded the \$1 million award and will be returning it to the US Treasury.

On March 20, 2025, Gerrish Township approved a Motion to establish a specific **Dissolution Plan** be adopted by Gerrish Township, and proposed to Lyon Township to adopt as well, that require each of the following; to wit:

A. The current GLUA Board commit at its next meeting to each of the following steps to complete the dissolution of GLUA:

1. GLUA retain a qualified auditor within ten (10) days to begin and complete a full audit of authority finances since inception as required by Article 16 of the Articles of Incorporation including a concise list of all grant monies or any donations received with the names and addresses of the donors, and all expenditures therefrom.
2. Immediate cancelation of all existing contracts on behalf of GLUA to stop any work which is in process, except the audit
3. Immediately notify all governmental entities to stop activities on behalf of GLUA pertaining to a sewer project including hydrological studies and/or determinations
4. Pay all outstanding obligations within sixty (60) days
5. Immediately close out any pending grants
6. Return all remaining (unspent) funds prorate to those who donated within sixty (60) days.

B. If the current GLUA Board fails to commit to the above within ten (10) days, that each township remove their respective members and agree to remove the At-Large member and appoint new members who will complete the above steps.

- C. Once confirmation is received the GLUA checking account has reached \$0 and has been reconciled, both constituent townships pass appropriate resolutions to remove all board members of GLUA.

- D. Both constituent townships pass a resolution to rescind the approval for the ByLaws and Articles of Incorporation of GLUA, publish a copy of the Resolution with the Houghton Lake Resorter and provide a copy to both the Michigan Secretary of State and Roscommon County Clerk and therefore dissolve the existence of GLUA as an authority created under Public Act 233 of 1955, MCL 124.281 et seq.