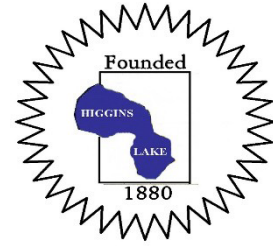


# Memorandum



To: **Gerrish Township Board/Community**  
cc: file  
From: **Supervisor Hill**  
Date: **09/23/2025**  
Re: **Supervisor September 2025 Board Report**

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**For September 2025, I am giving the following report:**

As an update to the *Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority (GLUA)*, legal processes continue to be followed to fulfill the dissolution of the corporation via the advice of our legal counsel. This month, the *GLUA* board met on September 23, 2025, to further discuss and approve the specific distributions back to the donors in a prorated fashion which is to represent 46.5% of the total amount contributed by each donor. Specifically, they reported \$53,988.00 to be disbursed by the approved percentage. *GLUA* approved a form letter to be attached to each disbursement. Additionally, they requested that checks be cashed by October 31, 2025. They do expect to meet one more time. Once they accomplish a zero balance and the required 60 days to cash checks, the account can be reconciled and prepared for closure. Then, the board will follow two more necessary steps to have the matter of processing the closure of the corporation/authority with the State and IRS to be managed by counsel for *Gerrish and Lyon Twp.*

On a Health of Higgins Lake note, the *Gerrish Township Board* appointed Trustee Jim Ostling as a temporary chair of the Health of Higgins Lake Steering Committee (HOHL-Steering Committee) until a new candidate can be found. In that role, Trustee Ostling created the first HOHL-Steering Committee report to the *Gerrish Township Board* and public and same is posted to the HOHL page at [www.gerrishtownship.org](http://www.gerrishtownship.org) website. Additionally, the *Gerrish Township Board* appointed *Gerrish Township*

resident Jennie Walker to the HOHL-Steering Committee.

This month I managed the project of getting the "Live" web cam installed at the Gerrish Township Marina. This was to replace the long-missed weather camera that was well liked by the public a few years back that belonged to a local TV station who had removed same. The camera and service are owned by the Township now and will continue to be available as part of the Gerrish Township Marina System. This camera joined the "Live" web cam made available to the Gerrish Township Municipal Park focusing on the Tennis/Pickleball courts.

For the Township, I chaired the September work session and the September Regular Township meeting to conduct the business of the Township in a public forum.

This month, I organized a meeting with Dan Decker, owner of the Cut River Grille, the Roscommon County Road Commission Manager Roger Saxton, Engineer Neil Belanger and Chief Eric Muszynski of the Police Department. I was contacted by Dan Decker who advised that he wanted to explore a possible "barrier" for the restaurant pursuant to the recent crash this summer that had a vehicle crash into same. I agreed to facilitate a meeting despite the fact that Gerrish Township does not own the roads and the fact that their building may be remarkably close to if not in the road right of way when the original footprint was built back in the 1930's. Engineer Belanger had been out prior to the meeting to review the Highway standards measurements they are required to follow. He found that with the 45 MPH speed, current slope and present design, there was 22 feet available for the "clear zone". That "clear zone" with the conditions should be between 16 ft and 18 ft to comply with the Highway standards manual. Therefore, they cannot permit nor construct any barrier as it exceeds the manual standards. Further, there is no room available for the Grille to put anything else up as well. It was good to see the due diligence applied to the perceived danger.

My Community involvement this month:

- I attended a Capital Campaign meeting to further reach our goal of funding our Capital Project for the expansion inside what is known as the CRAF Center in Roscommon, Mi.

- Also, this month I chaired a E-911 Authority Board meeting to review and conduct the necessary business of 911 Center. It is budget time, and several items were discussed to assist Director Gilbert in her endeavors to construct a thoughtful budget for 2026-2027.
- I also attended the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center groundbreaking ceremony in my Chairperson Capacity. We broke ground on phase 1 of the much-needed expansion of the Center. The ceremony was well attended by many disciplines that use the center, donors, Chambers of Commerce from the region and political figures as well. This is the last month of my board tenure due to term limits at the center. I chaired the last regular meeting as a board member for the center with mixed emotions. This has been a rewarding experience to guide this non-profit labor of love and to have been a part of this exciting expansion as a financial donor and having served a leadership role for my 2 terms.
- This month, I assisted the Gerrish Township Police Chief in replacing faded Neighborhood Watch signs with new signs provided by the Advisory Community Team-Neighbors on Watch (ACT-NOW) around the Township.
- I attended the Higgins Lake Riparian Safety meeting as I have done in the past to discuss safety matters important to Higgins Lake.

I continue to meet with Clerk Squires to prepare the work session and regular meeting agenda as well as the other meetings alluded to in the earlier paragraph. This is being done to ensure we have correct, prompt information for board members prior to the meeting.

I continue to receive inquiries and thoughts about the Short-Term Rental topic to include helpful questions, examples of situations etc. for inclusion on the topic. Additionally, after last month's visit with our counsel, we have begun to focus on a possible Police Powered Ordinance to regulate the Short-Term Rental matter. Treasurer Anderson and I met with Police Chief Muszynski to discuss the enforcement nuances if a Police Power Ordinance were adopted at some point. These discussions need to happen to clarify the Administrative processes required if the board were to enact such an ordinance. If Police powered, the enforcement would lay in the hands of the Police Department as many other Police power ordinances do. The meeting was exploratory only. Unfortunately,

again, as of this writing, the A.3 draft remains at the Township Attorney's office as it was last month awaiting his questions, criticisms or comments as we walk through this process thoughtfully and not impetuously.

This month also saw the progression of the Roscommon County Board of Commissioners (BOC) Special Assessment District-Lake Level Control Structure processes. During this month, the Township and other Lake front properties received their notice of the amount being assessed if they were to levy same. In short, the Township was also being assessed for the road ends in our Township under an "At Large" assessment provision in the amount of \$18,203.22 within the statute. In clarifying the "At-Large" definition, the Gerrish Township Board took exception being taxed for property we do not own as defined by Michigan Roads Statutes. Simply put, Townships in Michigan own no roads. Only villages, cities, counties and the state own roads and indeed receive funds to maintain same. When clarification was received by BOC Chair Sensor, the assessment was for the "Use" and "Benefits" of the road ends. This caused our board to decide to authorize our counsel to file an appeal within the 15 days to the court of record as defined in the BOC's advertisement which is the local Circuit Court to be heard on this issue on behalf of the taxpayers who are the ones that would be saddled with the payment of this assessment. If there are any arguable benefits to the economy, availability etc., those benefits they list are also enjoyed by Roscommon County as the Roscommon County Road Commission "owns" the roads for maintenance, permits etc., for anything in/on the right of way of their roads. To not assess themselves seems arbitrary at best. We have been told the Roscommon County Road Commission is "exempt" from any Special Assessments. More to follow as the court processes move forward. We do not enter into this decision lightly.

I continue to work through the upcoming fall closures of the various Parks and Recreation facilities to include winterizing, storage of equipment concerns and perhaps the largest project will be the Tree trimming/cutting in the various locations of Township ownership of dead Oak trees and their limbs that could not be addressed until the Fall per the State of Michigan. We still await the diagnosis of the pump/well problem at the Township Cemetery. Companies have been called, but none have shown to date for the diagnosis.

I continue to answer day-to-day emails from citizens, contact forms from the website and answer questions on behalf of the Township this month via telephone and personal appearances in the Township this month.

My hours here at work are from 7:00 a.m. in the morning and will be available until 2:00 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 and I go to meetings that usually occur in Roscommon, Mi. 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 on 989-821-9313 ext. 229.

Respectfully given,

*Brian A. Hill, Supervisor*

Cc/file

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