

Silver Lake Township Municipal Authority
June 9, 2025

Board Members present: Dale Tifft, Carl Speicher, and Julie Perlick. Also present, Robyn Walter and Michael Hester

Dale Tifft called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

No changes to the agenda.

Business from the floor was brought by Joe Garrehy and Luke Little. Mr. Garrehy has a camper on his property and wants to connect to the system. The Board discussed with him that he must connect directly to the system and by-pass the holding tank of the camper and Mrs. Walter provided the cost for connection to the system. Mr. Little expressed that he was at the meeting as he has a camper that is already hooked to the system and goes through the holding tank. He attended the meeting because a neighbor told him that the SLTMA had issues with his hook-up. Concerns about the dangers that tablets used in camper holding tanks would pose to our system were expressed by the Board. Both Mr. Garrehy and Mr. Little stated that the holding tanks could be placed in an "open" position and allow waste to flow through without staying in the holding tank. Mr. Little said that there are ways to clean out the holding tank if needed, like using soap and water. Both Mr. Garrehy and Mr. Little stated that they would not use the tablets at their campers. The Board explained that we have no regulations on this issue currently and will need to decide carefully how to proceed as future camper owners may not be aware of the dangers the tablets pose to the system. Mr. Little stated that it is no different from someone with a cottage or Air BNB putting something in their system. Ms. Perlick stated that there are rules and regulations about putting toxins in the system and it's all a matter of making people aware. Most people would not realize that the tablets that commonly go in campers are harmful to our system. After asking clarifying questions of both parties about how the campers function, the Board agreed to have our operator, Mike Hester, look at the system of Mr. Little and proposed system of Mr. Garrehy to determine if it is possible to run through the holding tanks. Mr. Hester will report his findings to the Board who will then contact Mr. Garrehy and Mr. Little. As their business was completed, they then left the meeting.

The Board had further discussion of the issue. The Board asked Mr. Hester questions to gain a fuller understanding of the concerns related to the tablets and camper set-ups. Mr. Hester related that, in his opinion, the possibility of someone using a tablets in their holding tank (used to eliminate the smell from the tank) is a risk to the system. Areas where tablets are used have experienced system failure with the sludgy material rising to the top of the lagoon. If this occurred in our system, the lagoon would need to be pumped out entirely. The Board calculated that given the known cost of the recent sludge removal at Quaker Lake conducted for maintenance, pumping the entire lagoon could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mr. Hester stated that a third camper set-up on Laurel Lake had a household type flushable toilet that was directly attached to the system and therefore posed no threat as there was no holding tank. The Board agreed that once we settle this issue our by-laws need to be updated and our attorney will need to weigh in on it.

Open Bids From Grant Project- One bid was received from Hester Wastewater Management for \$117,521.00. The bid will be sent to Milnes and our attorney to verify that all paperwork is in order prior to acting on the bid.

Unfinished Business- None

Report of the Secretary was given by Julie Perlick. Correspondence received includes the Operator report filed electronically; a fact sheet about water systems pertaining to cyber-security; and ASSE training/recertification of backflow prevention. Dale Tifft made a motion to approve the April minutes. Julie Perlick seconded, all were in favor. Note that the May meeting was re-scheduled to this meeting.

Report of the Treasurer was given by Carl Speicher. The Finance Committee did not meet. Through April, \$4,312 from rents were received. This is down from approximately \$8,000 last year. Expenses are up by about \$3,000 from this time last year. They are at \$53,000, so far and mostly due to lagoon maintenance costs and repairs. Overall we are down about \$10,000 more this year compared to last year. Our current cash is at \$121,000, and last year we were at \$144,000. Julie Perlick requested that the Finance Committee provide the total cost of running the system each year for the last 5 years. A line item breakdown is not needed. Noting that each year reflects land purchase or major system work or repair, it would still give a good idea of actual cost as we look at rent prices for next year.

Robyn Walter gave the Report of Customer Service – Mrs. Walter stated that it has been busy with lots of payments coming in. We have the quote from Site Specific on the 31 units for the grant. She noted that the bill for the ad that was run for the grant was over \$700. Mrs. Walter asked if the name on the SLTMA credit card could be changed to her name. It is currently in Carl Speicher's name, but she does the purchasing. The Board approved the change. Robyn Walter also asked about fees for a temporary disconnect. The Board discussed with the Operator that there may be different reasons for a temporary disconnect. Mr. Tifft suggested that we charge the disconnection fee, but reserve the right to waive it as the Board sees fit.

The Operator report covering 4/25/2025 to 5/22/2025 was submitted electronically and reviewed. Both systems are operating within compliance. A contractor called who was connecting a customer's new tank and said that he noticed stinky water coming from the bank behind the curb box. Mr. Hester verified that there was a leak and had the main line pumped out and excavated the curb box, allowing him to locate a joint which appeared to have never been properly glued. A new curb box was put in and the joint repaired.

New business – Consider By-Law updates. Ms. Perlick stated that the by-laws are on the website, and when she searched to see if there was information about the camper connection question, some of the by-laws were out-dated given voting done by the Board in the past. This was noted with EDUs. The Board reviewed that aside from an update to cover the camper connection question if needed, other by-laws to be considered included any by-law on a temporary disconnect fee, and that a customer may not move (re-use) their tank as they are encased in cement and too likely to be damaged when removed. A new tank would have to be used. Board members are encouraged to begin looking over the by-laws to see what needs to be updated. Julie Perlick asked Robyn Walter to send prior editions of by-laws if they were accessible.

As there was no further business to discuss, Julie Perlick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carl Speicher seconded. All in favor. Dale Tifft ended the meeting at 7:09 pm.