



## MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 20, 2025

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:02 a.m., November 20, 2025, at the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility.

### ROLL CALL

**PRESENT** Sean Hobbins, City of Marquette  
Jim Compton, City of Marquette  
J. Neumann, Chocolay Township

**ABSENT** Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township  
Chris Lucas, Chocolay Township (Chair)  
George Patrick, City of Marquette

**OTHERS** Mark O'Neill, City of Marquette  
Mary Schlicht, City of Marquette  
Dan Johnston, City of Marquette  
Melissa Erkkila, City of Marquette  
Karla Kramer, City of Marquette

It was moved by J. Neumann, supported by J. Compton, to excuse the absent members. Approved 3-0.

**AGENDA** It was moved by J. Compton, supported by J. Neumann, to approve the agenda. Approved 3-0.

**MINUTES** It was moved by J. Neumann, supported by J. Compton, to approve the October 16, 2025, meeting minutes as written. Approved 3-0.

### FINANCIAL

- **Financial Report**

M. Schlicht, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report. M. Schlicht stated we are one month into the fiscal year. The operation labor and fringe benefits are already over the 30% mark which is expected. We post the defined benefit contribution in a lump sum at the beginning of the year so we have that investment throughout the entire fiscal year. The operations labor could be backed off by about \$340,000 and \$207,000 off the fringe benefits and administration line item to get closer to the benchmark of where we would expect to be at the first month of the year. Currently revenue is posted at \$266,000 and



expenditure is at \$743,000. Some audit entries will be coming to remove revenues back to fiscal year 2025 because we bill in the rears. Nothing is looking out of the ordinary.

M. O'Neill stated the capital outlay budget includes the purchase of a new pickup truck. Pricing was received from IDEAL to give us the best price. The state set up the specs for a pickup truck and then options were added to build it to our needs. They competitively bid it out and we received Dodge, Ford and GMC quotes with the 2026 GMC Sierra 2500 being the cheapest at \$50,000. This will be going in front of the Commission for approval. The budget was set up with the 2025 pricing and the 2026 came in about \$5,000 more. However, there is enough in the budget to cover this. S. Hobbins asked if it is better to purchase outright rather than going through the lease program. M. O'Neill stated that it is because we have two plow trucks. The new one will be the main plow truck for ten years. Then it becomes a backup plow truck that is used a lot in the summer months and rented out to the Water Plant in the winter months to plow their parking lots. This new truck will be kept for 20 years. Once we receive the new truck we will auction off the old one.

## OPERATIONS REPORT

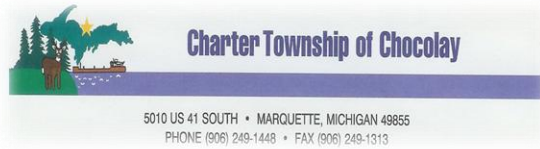
M. O'Neill, City of Marquette, presented the Operations Report.

### Permit Compliance for October 2025:

We had no permit violations for the month of October.

### Plant Notes

- We have resolved our sodium aluminate feed issues. We found the suction piping for the metering pumps to be extremely plugged with crystallized sodium aluminate. Staff replaced the affected piping and rebuilt the metering pump.
- The secondary scumwell pump has failed. We are still waiting on a quote and availability of a replacement.
- Our "new" camera server has been repaired and returned under warranty. I re-configured it and put it back into service.
- Annual calibration/certification of our influent flowmeter, digester flowmeter and our methane gas detectors was completed.
- Prime Industrial was on site to replace the failed coolant and boiler water lines on both of our CoGen units. We are waiting for the piping to be insulated before we contact Kraft to perform a routine service on both units and to re-install the refurbished generator unit into CoGen #2.
- We have been dealing with random current imbalance issues on many of our pieces of equipment, primarily on the weekends. In fact, these issues seldom occur during the work week. We have not detected anything wrong with the power grid to the plant, but something is obviously happening on Saturdays and Sundays.
- VanDamme completed hauling our cake biosolids to the Kempker farms. Total cubic yardage was 1472. Biosolids hauling is done for the year.



- We calculated our year-to-date septage revenue and we have received \$161,000. \$100,000 was budgeted with an expectation of \$150,000 but we may be close to \$200,000 by the end of the year. Some of the companies did not like going to Ishpeming because of how they restricted them, so they are coming here. S. Hobbins asked what that meant. M. O'Neill stated that Ishpeming's plant is a lot smaller, so the haulers were restricted to 20,000 gallons a day. They also do not have the automated system that we have.

**INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR OCTOBER 2025**

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	6,500	\$910.00
UPS	4,000	\$560.00
LS&I	4,500	\$630.00
Wisconsin Electric	19,000	\$760.00
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>34,000</b>	<b>\$2,860.00</b>

**SEPTAGE ACTIVITY FOR OCTOBER 2025**

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Carey/Sodergren	35,695	\$6,425.10
North Country	74,733	\$13,451.94
Stenberg	42,079	\$7,574.22
Hamel	1,124	\$202.32
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>153,631</b>	<b>\$27,653.58</b>

**NEW BUSINESS**

- None

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Solids Handling Project**

M. O'Neill stated the final paperwork has been submitted to EGLE and we are waiting for completion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- K. Kramer stated the permits for the Wright Street reconstruction project has been submitted. Water has been received back but still waiting for sewer.



## Charter Township of Chocolay

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### BOARD COMMENT

- J. Neumann stated Chocolay Township recently completed a sewer rate study with GEI. It went in front of the Board for introduction in November. In December they will be voting on a rate change. The Township has also been having power dips on the weekends. Station 1 by the Rock Cut dipped out two Sunday nights in a row.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Reviewed by:

M. O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila