

CITY OF GAASTRA MINUTES

MINUTES OF MEETING: January 8, 2026

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The meeting was called to order by Mayor Richard Holm at 4:30 pm.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chris Cain, Mari Kay McNamara, Randy Clements, Tony Holm

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Debbie Tusa, Manager/Clerk; Ethan Amerson, Public Works; Steve Polich, Polich Tousignant Law Office

MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 11, 2025 was reviewed. Moved by McNamara to accept the Regular Meeting minutes with support by Cain. **Passed Unanimously**

ACKNOWLEDGE THE PUBLIC:

Lecia Alfrejd stated the Gaastra roads are being maintained wonderfully.

CASH BALANCE REPORT:

Moved by McNamara and supported by T Holm to accept the Cash Balance Report. **Roll call: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

Moved by McNamara and supported by Clements to pay the accounts payables due & accept the bills paid. **Roll call: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

MANAGERS REPORT:

- Quarterly Bond payments were processed and paid.
- Fast-Air continues to have issues with outgoing emails linked with outlook, Hotmail, etc. Hopefully they get it fixed soon.
- I completed the required election classes for clerk training, to be able to run the elections. Every two years the recertification needs to be done.
- There will an election in August & November that will require the 9 days of early voting.
- The State accepted the fact that our auditor, Barry, has retired & no longer licensed to work on the audits. The State will not require the audit to be redone to add some information. Our next auditor will need to make sure all information is included.
- I will be advertising for a new auditor soon.
- The BS&A on line payment is going well with quite a few customers utilizing it.
- Three of the four payments have been submitted for the Backhoe. The State will be reimbursing us thru the Grant we received. Dave Secord, Michigan Treasury, was trying to have the reimbursement completed by the end of December, but it did not happen.
- * Mayor Holm requested for me to ask Robb, GEI, to contact Mr. Secord & let him know the City is in need of the reimbursement
- Grant paperwork is being processed as Robb sends it to me.
- There are a couple of BS&A cloud issues continuing to happen, but seem to get fixed on their end pretty quickly.
- The recreation plan has been approved and will be posted after steps to the State are finalized.
- We have had a couple months where Ethan had to redo the readings since they weren't syncing with the BS&A software.
- The Caspian Gaastra Fire Department is in need of some new radios. The two cities' will be billed for their portion & paid from the taxes collected for Fire Protection. The Fire Chief is working on quotes.

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Ethan went over the Public Works report:

The water leak at 12 Elmwood was completed, Aarpa money will be used for the repair.

A home on Oakwood has a water leak, the water has been turned off at the vacated house.

New tires chains were purchased, an underslung cylinder on the plow needed to be repaired, it was purchased and put on the plow truck.

There is a spring broken on the truck. The truck will be taken to Michigan Wisconsin Spring to have it replaced.

The lift station lost power one day, the generator was brought down there. There is a real need for an in house back up generator to be placed on site with an automatic transfer switch. There was a request to the State to purchase one with remaining Lift Station grant money.

A couple more loads of sand was ordered and delivered by Spicer's.

A bench was broken by the Public Bathrooms, that will be fixed this Spring.

Motioned by T Holm to accept the manager's report and supported by Clements.

Passed Unanimously.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT:

Moved by T Holm to pay the assessor's bill and supported by McNamara. **Roll call: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

OLD BUSINESS:

A meeting took place to discuss the priorities of applying for the FDCVT grant. Robb, GEI, submitted the list to the board: 1) Lead Service Line Replacement, 2) Well House Improvements, 3) Utility Truck, 4) Booster Station Improvements, 5) Water Valves for Hydrants & Main Lines. Robb will send in the applications for this grant.

The Recreation Plan has been completed and will be submitted to the DNR.

LEGAL REPORT

Attorney Polich stated Gaastra has the best maintained roads in the West Side of the county, Public Worker Ethan is doing a fantastic job in keeping our roads plowed and safe.

INFORMATIONAL:

A thank you was given to Randy Clements for his years of service as commissioner for The City of Gaastra.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, it was motioned by Cain with support from McNamara to adjourn at 4:52 pm. **Passed Unanimously.**

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REORGANIZATION

Oath of Office:

Richard Holm took the oath of office for a one-year term as Mayor

Tony Holm took the oath of office for a two-year term as commissioner.

Jim Mortl was not present at take the oath for the Commissioner Seat he won in November.

Appointment of Boards/Committees:

Mayor Holm appointed members for the various boards/committees for the 2026 year. Mayor Holm gave appreciation & thanks for the commissioners for the work they put towards the City. The listing will be typed and posted.

Roll call: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.

Investment Policy:

T Holm motioned to approve the Investment Policy with support by McNamara **Roll call: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion Passed.**

NEW BUSINESS:

There is no new business.

INFORMATIONAL:

Alisa Porier, President of the Iron County Little League submitted a letter stating the season will likely begin mid-April until the end of June at the Anderson Memorial Park. They are planning to install a batting cage from funding they received via the Iron County Area Health Foundation. Gaastra will have the power installed this Spring.

McNamara would like to have a picture taken with the new backhoe we received. We will have it arranged to be done soon.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, it was motioned by McNamara with support from Cain to adjourn at 4:58 pm. **Passed Unanimously.**

Richard Holm, Mayor

Debbie Tusa, Clerk