

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the Georgetown Township Mineral Mining Board, held Wednesday, May 21, 2025.**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Josiah Samy at 8:57 p.m.

Present: Josiah Samy (Chairman Samy), Jeannine Bolhouse, Gary Veldink, Brian Reed, Tom Healy, Jessica Ulberg, Geoff Brown

Absent: None

Also present: Ryan Schab, Mining Official

**#250521-01 – Mineral Mining Board Agenda for [May 21, 2025](#)**

Moved by Gary Veldink, seconded by Tom Healy, to approve the agenda of the [May 21, 2025](#) meeting as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**#250521-02 – Minutes of the [April 19, 2023](#) Mineral Mining Board Meeting**

Moved by Chairman Samy, seconded by Gary Veldink, to approve the minutes of the [April 19, 2023](#) meeting as submitted.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**#250521-03 – (ML2501) Renewal of (ML1504) Huizenga Gravel, to continue to mine on parcels of land identified as follows. The request is for a renewal of an existing mining license for the excavation of materials located on the Huizenga Gravel mining site and processing of those materials. No request was made to bring additional materials onto the site for processing and no request was made for a crushing operation. Currently neither exist on the site. ([Renewal Letter](#), [Overall Plan](#), [Phasing Plan](#), [Reclamation Plan](#))**

1. P.P. # 70-14-03-200-002, located at 1861 Fillmore St., zoned RR, owned by Huizenga Gravel
2. P.P. # 70-14-03-200-001, located at 1949 Fillmore St., zoned RR, owned by Huizenga Development Land LLC.
3. P.P # 70-14-03-100-017, located at 9448 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave., zoned RR, owned by Huizenga Development Land LLC.
4. P.P. # 70-10-34-400-026, zoned RR, owned by Huizenga Development Land LLC.

Ryan Huizenga of Huizenga Gravel, the Applicant, presented their application to the Mineral Mining Board. Exxel Engineering was also in attendance on behalf of the Applicant.

The Mining Official presented the [Staff Report](#).

Gary Veldink asked the Applicant when they plan to be finished mining.

The Applicant stated that the operation has been going on since around 1965 and mining was happening at this location even before that. It is difficult to answer exactly when they will be completed. They never know what exactly they are going to find and where, there is a lot of clay they have to work around. It is important for them to be careful as they are excavating this site. One issue they are having is they are getting to the bottom of the reclaimable material. If they run into clay, they may spend 3 weeks just moving that out of the way. They are aiming to be

completed within the next 5 to 10 years. The Applicant acknowledged that while the reclamation is taking place, they will still need to obtain mining permit renewals. FEMA changed the grade where the floodplain is which will force the reclamation plan to include changing the grade. The easy to get material has been mined, the difficult part is the remaining material and the timeline for mining it depends on conditions like flooding.

Gary Veldink asked if this application has anything to do with Top Grade and Grand Rapids Gravel's plan to belt and process their material on this site.

The Applicant stated Top Grade is in discussion to do something like that but this application is not in relation to that plan. Top Grade has set up their own temporary plant.

Jessica Ulberg confirmed that is a separate issue.

Tom Healy stated that if Top Grade plans to import material onto Huizenga's site, Huizenga should be receiving approval for importation.

The Applicant stated that something like that would not happen within the next 5 years as Top Grade has their own plant established on their property.

Jeannine Bolhouse asked if the reclamation plan is reviewed by anyone at Ottawa County Parks or the Department of Natural Resources.

The Mining Official confirmed that the reclamation plan was submitted to Ottawa County Parks. It was confirmed that Huizenga Gravel has submitted the same reclamation plan to them as well and the plan is consistent with conversations Huizenga Gravel has had with Ottawa County Parks.

Jeannine Bolhouse stated that at the previous meeting a lot of time was spent reviewing the bond amount, so she felt comfortable proceeding with bond amount put forward by the Applicant.

Tom Healy concurred with the bond amount.

Geoff Brown asked how deep these mines go.

The Applicant stated that the word mine is a bit of a misnomer. The excavator will go about 12 to 14 feet maximum in some areas.

Chairman Samy opened the floor to public comments.

Chairman Samy closed the floor to public comments.

**Moved by Jeannine Bolhouse, seconded by Gary Veldink, to adopt the staff report as finding of fact and to approve the motion as presented:**

**Motion: Insofar as the Township recognizes that the materials that are mined are a natural and valuable resource and this is important to the community and area, the Mining Board grants approval of (ML2501) which is the renewal of (ML2003) Huizinga Gravel, as shown on the site plans dated 04/25/25, and to incorporate the findings and conclusions in the Staff Report dated May 21, 2025, with the following conditions:**

- The license shall expire **June 30, 2030**, unless suspended or revoked earlier per the Ordinance.
- **A performance bond, as required in Sec. 26.81 of the Mining Ordinance, is to be paid to the Township relative to the acres of land remaining to be reclaimed or restored. The amount based on \$1,000 per acre remaining to be restored or reclaimed was determined by the applicant to be \$70,000. This amount shall be submitted to the Township no later than June 30, 2025 in order for the mining license to remain in effect. The amount of the guarantee may be periodically reduced by the Mining Board upon request by the mining company, proportionate to the number of acres that are reclamation or restoration.**
- The Site shall be operated in compliance with all previous approvals, including the conditions of approval.
- All terms and conditions as presented with the initial application materials, along with each renewal since that time, remain in effect
- The operator shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations and ordinances.
- Hours of operation be limited to 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, and no Sundays or holidays.
- The haul route shall continue as approved with the previous approvals. All roads within the site are to be maintained in a manner that controls dust and prevents debris from being carried onto public streets.
- If any berms are created, they are to be maintained.
- No future reclamation approvals are implied by the approval of this reclamation plan and the applicant must obtain approval as required by all other Township ordinances.
- Approval from the Ottawa County Road Commission must remain in effect.
- All entrances and exits to the site shall be securely locked during hours when mining operations are not permitted on the site.
- All vehicles used to transport excavated material shall be loaded in a manner so that the material cannot be unintentionally discharged from the vehicle. Vehicles shall be cleaned of all material not in the load-bed prior to entering the public streets. If materials excavated from the site are deposited or spilled upon the public roadway, it shall be the responsibility of the licensee, without requiring any action or request by the township, to immediately remove the spilled or deposited material.
- A licensee shall comply with all soil erosion, wetlands and floodplain rules and regulations of the State of Michigan, Ottawa County and the township.
- Fueling of vehicles on any site shall comply with statutes, rules and regulations enforced and implemented by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.
- All roads within the site are to be maintained in a manner that controls dust and prevents debris from being carried onto public streets.
- If filling of an excavated area is necessary during reclamation, only inert material, as defined by the Michigan Solid Waste Management Act (Act No. 641 of the Public Acts of 1978, as amended) shall be used.
- Upon termination of mining operations, the licensee shall be responsible to reclaim the site in accordance with reclamation plans approved by the review board, **which is the Bend in the River Plan and the plan submitted showing the single family homes.** A mining license shall remain in effect during reclamation operations. If the licensee fails to reclaim the site as required by the approved reclamation plans, the township may come upon the site and reclaim the land in accordance with those plans and may use the proceeds of the performance guarantee required by this article to defray the costs of the reclamation.
- Upon the cessation of all mining operations (or any phase of operations, as applicable) except stockpiling, and within a reasonable period of time, not exceeding 12 months thereafter, all tanks,

buildings, stockpiles, and equipment shall be removed from the site unless the building or structures can lawfully be used on the site for other purposes as permitted by applicable laws or ordinances.

- Storage and stockpiling of mined products after cessation of mining activities may be permitted by the review board by annual license granted for that limited purpose. In no event shall any additional materials be allowed to be added to these stockpiles and a license granted for storage or stockpiling of mined products shall not interfere with or excuse reclamation as otherwise required under this article.
- **In no event shall any additional materials be allowed to be brought onto the site or added to any stockpiles.** However, as per the narrative dated 4/25/25, it is acceptable that some materials may be imported to the site to provide the necessary fill for the Bend in the River reclamation plan.
- **The license does not include a crushing operation. No crushing operation is allowed unless requested by the applicant and approved by the Mining Board.**
- No additional materials are required of the applicant at this time since the initial application contained all the required submittal materials and nothing has changed as of this time.
- The operation on the site shall continue to work with Ottawa County Parks and Recreation towards the Bend in the River Reclamation Plan.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **#250521-04 – Communications, Letters and Reports**

#### **#250521-05 – Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

#### **#250521-06 – Other Business**

There was discussion among the Mining Board in regard to adding materials onto a site.

#### **#250521-07 – Adjournment**

Moved by Chairman Samy, seconded Geoff Brown to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.