

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name: Greg

2. The sponsoring representative's last name:

Alexander

3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.

n/a

4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:

The Village of Sebewaing

5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:

110 W. Main Street, Sebewaing Michigan 48159

6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:

Phase 1 - Water infrastructure replacement on • North Center from Young Street to M-25

(Cast Iron) and • Sharpsteen from M-25 to Tenth and on Tenth from Sharpsteen to E.

Sebewaing (Asbestos Concrete) • Third Street from Grove to Main Street (Cast Iron)

7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:

Greg Alexander | District 98

8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. Purpose

To protect public health, ensure reliable service, and reduce long-term costs, I am requesting \$2,000,000 in legislative support on behalf of Sebewaing Light and Water (SLW) to help replace aging cast iron and asbestos cement water mains with high-performance, corrosion-resistant PVC infrastructure. With a lifespan of up to 100 years, this upgrade will deliver generational value to the community while alleviating the financial burden of frequent emergency repairs.

Background

The Village of Sebewaing's water system is failing. Constructed largely 25–50 years ago, the system relies on outdated cast iron and asbestos cement mains that are now deteriorating rapidly. On average, SLW experiences at least one major water main break annually—causing service outages, degraded water quality, and costly emergency interventions.

The risks are no longer hypothetical. Corrosion-prone cast iron has outlived its useful life, jeopardizing water quality and increasing the potential for contamination and pressure-related failures. Asbestos cement pipes further complicate the issue. When disturbed, these pipes can release hazardous fibers, triggering expensive abatement procedures and exposing the municipality to environmental and legal liabilities.

Financial Impact

In partnership with the Michigan Rural Water Association and Utility Financial Solutions, SLW conducted comprehensive financial analyses in 2020 and 2025. The findings were clear: significant rate increases were required just to maintain current service levels. Most customers have already absorbed rate increases of 50%, and the system's largest user saw hikes approaching 300%. Without external assistance, the additional cost of replacing failing infrastructure would force unsustainable rate hikes on a rural population that simply cannot afford them.

A \$2 million investment from the state would cover nearly 25% of the \$9 million project cost, allowing SLW to begin the most critical phases of replacement while protecting residents from further financial strain.

Why This Cannot Wait

Delaying this investment would drive up future costs, increase health and safety risks, and erode public trust. The existing mains are well beyond their intended service life and show a pattern of recurring failure. Continued deferral would likely result in catastrophic breaks, service outages, water quality violations, and emergency expenditures that far exceed the cost of planned upgrades.

Taking action now ensures cost-effective, proactive infrastructure improvement—and demonstrates that Michigan takes the health and safety of its rural residents seriously.

A Responsible Use of State Resources

This project is a fiscally sound investment that delivers clear, measurable public benefits:

• Safeguards the health of residents by reducing contamination risk

- Prevents expensive emergency repairs and long-term regulatory liabilities
- Supports local farms, small businesses, schools, and housing
- Ensures infrastructure equity between rural and urban communities
- Promotes stable water rates and long-term utility sustainability

Benefits of Modern PVC Water Mains

Upgrading to PVC water lines will provide the Village of Sebewaing with:

- Improved Reliability: PVC lasts 75–100 years and resists corrosion
- Lower Maintenance Costs: Reduces emergency repairs and long-term expenses
- Enhanced Water Quality: Cleaner delivery through non-corrosive materials
- Greater Resilience: A robust system ready for extreme weather and fire events
- Economic Stability: Critical infrastructure for agricultural and business development

Conclusion

This is more than a utility upgrade—it is a vital investment in public health, rural equity, and long-term cost savings. I urge the Legislature to support this request and help the Village of Sebewaing secure a safe, reliable water future.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

- 10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item. 2000000
- 11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors? Not applicable

- 16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'
- 17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Starting Fall of 2025 | End 3 Months after start

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Projected Costs for 2025:

Water Main Preliminary Estimates of Cost Sebewaing Light and Water

Project	Location	size	Infrastructure	Projected
			type	Cost 2025
North Center and Beach Street Water	Center Street between Young and M-25,	6"	Cast Iron	
Main	Beach Street from Center to M-25			\$ 911,845
Sharpsteen and 10th Street Water	Sharpteen from M-25 to 10th, 10th from	6"	Asbestos	
Main	Sharpsteen to East Sebewaing		Concrete	\$ 730,600
3rd Street	From Grove to Main	4"	Cast Iron	\$ 295,050
4th Street	Grove to Fredrick	4"	Asbestos	
			Concrete	\$ 154,550
WATER MAIN REPLACMENT: VOLTZ	FROM AUCH TO 500FT W. OF AUCH	4"	Asbestos	
COURT			Concrete	\$ 245,875
WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT:	TIE: FROM 9TH WEST 550 FT, WELL #4 TO			
BRUNSWICK STREET	BRUNSWICK			\$ 337,200
Main Street	From 1st to Miller	4"	Cast Iron	\$ 386,375
E Sebewaing	Center to M-25	4"	Cast Iron	\$ 393,400
WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT:	TIE: BAY STREET TO M25			\$ 410,260
WATER MAIN REPLACMENT: 9TH	FROM E. SHARPSTEEN TO 105 FT S. OF	4"	Asbestos	
STREET	BEACH		Concrete	\$ 435,550
Union Street	Miller to County Park	4"	Cast Iron	\$ 597,125
WATER MAIN REPLACMENT:	TIE: GREMEL AND DODGE CT. E.			
	SEBEWAING AND EAST STREET TO DODGE,			
	GREMEL TO DODGE			\$ 779,775
WATER MAIN EXTENSION: PINE	TIE: FROM ALBERT TO MILLER			
STREET				\$ 857,050
East Street Water Main	East Street from East Sebewaing to Canboro	4"	Asbestos	
	Rd		Concrete	\$ 864,075
South Center Street water Main	South Center from Bay to Main Street	6"	Cast Iron	\$ 1,403,595

Total \$8,802,325.00

Infrastructure Age:

WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM VILLAGE OF SEBEWAING HURON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

WSSN: 5990

TABLE 8: MAINS BY AGE

YEAR INSTALLED	LENGTH (FT)	PERCENT (%)	% BY DECADE
1950	14,607	15.5%	15.7%
1956	101	0.1%	
1960	12,522	13.3%	17.4%
1969	3,791	4.0%	
1970	2,821	3.0%	3.0%
1987	7,835	8.3%	9.0%
1988	603	0.6%	
1990	2,507	2.7%	
1991	2,148	2.3%	
1994	139	0.1%	11.00/
1995	1,324	1.4%	11.8%
1996	3,003	3.2%	
1998	1,975	2.1%	
2000	6,470	6.9%	
2001	270	0.3%	
2003	687	0.7%	
2005	2,794	3.0%	23.0%
2006	2,757	2.9%	
2007	2,983	3.2%	
2008	5,670	6.0%	
2010	565	0.6%	
2013	745	0.8%	
2014	6,252	6.7%	20.20/
2015	6,491	6.9%	20.2%
2016	1,586	1.7%	
2018	3,335	3.5%	
TOTAL	93,980	100.0%	100.0%

Sebewaing Light and Water Water Rate Schedule

Village Ready to Serve (RTS)					
			Overall		
Meter Size in inches	2020	2025	Increase		
5/8	\$16.00	\$ 24.00	50%		
3/4	\$16.00	\$ 27.50	72%		
1	\$17.00	\$ 34.50	103%		
1 1/4	\$18.50	\$ 43.50	135%		
1 1/2	\$20.00	\$ 52.50	163%		
2	\$25.00	\$ 74.00	196%		
3	\$35.00	\$124.00	254%		
4	\$50.00	\$196.00	292%		

Non-Metered*	\$30.03	\$ 45.00	50%
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Non-Metered to be billed for 5/8 inch meter

Village Volume Charge					
First 500,000 Gallons	\$	3.51	\$	5.25	50%
Over 500,000 Gallons	\$	2.05	\$	3.15	54%

Township Ready to Serve (RTS)					
			Overall		
Meter Size in inches	2020	2025	Increase		
5/8	\$22.00	\$ 36.00	64%		
3/4	\$22.00	\$ 41.25	88%		
1	\$23.75	\$ 51.75	118%		
1 1/4	\$26.38	\$ 65.25	147%		
1 1/2	\$29.00	\$ 78.75	172%		
2	\$37.75	\$111.00	194%		
3	\$55.25	\$186.00	237%		
4	\$81.50	\$294.00	261%		

Non-Metered	\$45.38	\$ 67.50	49%
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Non-Metered to be billed for 5/8 inch meter

Township Volume Charge					
First 500,000 Gallons	\$5.85	\$	7.88	35%	
Over 500,000 Gallons	\$3.41	\$	4.73	39%	



Village of Sebewaing

222 North Center Street Sebewaing MI 48759 Phone: 989-883-2150 Fax: 989-883-9367

Email: office@SebewaingMI.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

www.SebewaingMI.gov

April 21, 2025

State Representative Greg Alexander S-1287 House Office Building P.O. Box 30014 Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative Alexander,

As the President and President Pro Tem of the Village of Sebewaing, we are writing to express our staunch support for Sebewaing Light and Water's (SLW) request for \$2,000,000 in appropriations funding for Phase One of a critical infrastructure project. This amount represents part of the \$9,000,000 total needed and will directly benefit the Village's residents by improving water quality and replacing deteriorating infrastructure.

The requested funding will help address the urgent need to replace antiquated water mains. These mains have experienced numerous breaks over the years and are currently patched with multiple clamps. By securing outside funding, SLW can reduce the financial burden on our ratepayers—currently estimated at \$1,710 per customer (based on \$2 million divided by 1,170 customers). This assistance would not only enhance service reliability but also help keep rates affordable for our residents.

Phase One includes three priority projects that can be completed using a combination of SLW's municipal staff and local contractors. By investing in these replacements now, we can significantly enhance the long-term sustainability of our water utility, reduce emergency repair costs, and stabilize future rate increases.

SLW operates with a lean staff of just eleven employees, who manage our electric, water, and internet utilities. Limited capital, coupled with years of underfunded operations and insufficient rate increases, has resulted in unavoidable deferred maintenance across our system. Although we have pursued grants, the process is complex and typically requires costly outside assistance from engineers and grant writers, putting it out of reach for small utilities like ours.

Currently, 56% of our water infrastructure is over 25 years old, and 36% is over 55 years old. Without external support, it is extremely challenging to fund the necessary improvements while maintaining affordable rates for our community.

We appreciate your time and consideration of this funding request and your continued support of Sebewaing Light and Water. Your assistance will have a significant and lasting impact on our residents and help ensure safe, reliable water service for years to come.

Sincerely

Julie Epperson,

President, Village of Sebewaing

Marcus Sting,

President Pro Tem, Village of Sebewaing