

Muskegon County
Water System Policy Board
August 12, 2014
2:00 p.m.
Dalton Township
1616 E. Riley Thompson Road
Muskegon, MI 49445

Kim Arter, Chair

Susie Hughes, Vice Chair

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Arter at 2:02 p.m.

ROLL

Present: Kim Arter, Laketon Township Supervisor
Susie Hughes, Muskegon County Commissioner
David Kieft, Muskegon Charter Township Supervisor
Kenneth Mahoney, Muskegon County Board Chair
Terry Sabo, Muskegon County Commissioner
Sam St. Amour, Fruitland Township Supervisor
Chris Hall, Dalton Township Supervisor

Excused:

Staff

Present: Robert Ribbens, Regional Water System Supervisor
Tina Nash, DPW Departmental Clerk

Others

Present: David Bossenbroek, Attorney
Jan L Deur, Fruitland Township Trustee
Rod Siegel, Laketon Township Building Inspector
Elizabeth Jenkins, Dalton Township Treasurer

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

WSPB-14-039 Moved by Kieft, seconded by Hughes, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WSPB-14-040 Moved by Kieft, seconded by Hughes, to approve the minutes of the meeting held June 10, 2014.

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT (on an agenda item)

None

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Accounts Past Due – over \$500.00

Ms. Arter asked Mr. Ribbens to explain the current procedure for past due accounts. Mr. Ribbens stated the past due amount goes to taxes. Ms. Arter asked if there are past due notices that go out. Mr. Ribbens stated not at this point, however there is a statement on the back of the bill that addresses past due amounts.

Mr. Ribbens informed the Board that the problem is with foreclosures and some of the past due amounts would double a homeowners taxes. Mr. Ribbens informed the Board that about 30% of the customer base never pays a bill, it goes to taxes and a majority of those are collected. Mr. St. Amour asked Mr. Ribbens if he felt that things were getting worse and Mr. Ribbens replied he did not, however the system is losing money due to foreclosures. Commissioner Hughes asked if we are notified of a foreclosure. Mr. Ribbens stated that they are notified by mail. Mr. St. Amour asked what the alternative is. Mr. Ribbens stated he is looking for some feedback from the Board. Mr. Kieft along with Mr. Bossenbroek clarified the difference between a Bank Foreclosure and a Tax Foreclosure.

Ms. Arter asked about payment plans and Mr. Ribbens stated he has done this and he hasn't had one customer who has followed through.

Commissioner Hughes asked what the options are to collect. Mr. Ribbens stated there are options of sending out shut off notices. Commissioner Hughes asked if there is a liability to shutting off water. Mr. Bossenbroek stated if it was a health, safety or welfare situation. Further discussion followed among Board members on how shut off notices could be handled.

Ms. Arter suggested there be a subcommittee formed to take a look at the policy and make recommendations to the Board. Mr. St. Amour, Commissioner Hughes and Mr. Kieft volunteered.

Mr. Hall inquired about the company doing the hydrant painting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

WSPB-14-041 Moved by Kieft, seconded by Hughes, that the following information items be received and placed on file:

1. New Meter Set List for June and July 2014
2. Local Fund Balance Sheet for June and July 2014

Motion carried

REPORTS

Water System Update

The Water System Update was accepted as written by John Warner and distributed in a memo for information.

Commissioner Hughes asked who was replacing the hydrant flags. Mr. Ribbens stated that the flags are being installed by a staff member. Ms. Arter asked Mr. Ribbens if he needed a list from the Townships and Mr. Ribbens stated he was working off a detailed list provided by the Fire Department, however if anyone saw a hydrant that needed to have a flag replaced to report it to him.

Mr. Bossenbroek inquired about the Evanston Tower antenna installation and lease money.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Hall informed the Board members that Dalton Township's Fire Department will be hose testing in the Industrial Park.

Commissioner Sabo asked the Board members to think about ways to promote business and business expansion for the water systems current and future customers.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Water System Policy Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.