

Muskegon County
Water System Policy Board
December 9, 2014
2:00 p.m.
Training Center
133 E. Apple Avenue, Room 202
Muskegon, Michigan 49442

Kim Arter, Chair

Susie Hughes, Vice Chair

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Arter at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL

Present: Kim Arter, Laketon Township Supervisor
Chris Hall, Dalton 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

Excused:

Staff

Present: John Warner, Public Works Director
Tina Nash, DPW Departmental Clerk

Others

Present: David Bossenbroek, Attorney
Jerry Sanders, Muskegon Charter Township DPW Director
Rod Siegel, Laketon Township Building Official and Water/Sewer Supervisor
Jan L. Deur, Fruitland Township Trustee
Jeffrey Wood, Muskegon Charter Township Treasurer
Matthew C. VanHoef, Attorney

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

WSPB-14-050 Moved by Hughes, seconded by St. Amour, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WSPB-14-051 Moved by Hughes, seconded by Hall, to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 4, 2014.

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT (on an agenda item)

None

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:

WSPB-14-052 **Approve FY2015 Budget for the Muskegon County Regional Water System.**

Moved by St. Amour, seconded by Hughes, to approve the FY2015 budget for the Muskegon County Regional Water System as presented.

Roll call:

Ayes – Hall, Mahoney, St. Amour, Sabo, Hughes, Arter

Nays – Kieft

Abstain – None

Motion carried

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Delinquent Bill Sub-Committee Report Update

Mr. St. Amour stated the sub-committee has not met. Mr. St. Amour stated he does have information that he will be sending the group.

Commissioner Sabo clarified that this is only to review what other municipalities do and doesn't mean that this Board would make any changes, but for informational purposes to understand what our options are. Mr. St. Amour stated that Commissioner Sabo is correct.

Ms. Arter stated they will look for the recommendation at next month's meeting.

INFORMATION ITEMS

WSPB-14-053 Moved by Kieft, seconded by Mahoney, that the following information items be received and placed on file:

1. New Meter Set List for November 2014
2. Local Fund Balance Sheet for November 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 Mr. Warner what was wrong with the roof. Mr. Warner stated that there was an approximate 6 to 8 inch hole in the roof and the soffit was blown off. Commissioner Hughes asked if they have insurance to cover damages. Mr. Warner stated they do, but this was a \$2000.00 repair so they went ahead and paid it.

Commissioner Hughes asked Mr. Warner how they determine if a home is vacant. Mr. Warner stated that Rob Ribbens watches the homes on his route for activity. Commissioner Hughes suggested that a letter be sent to the municipalities and ask that they notify the Water Department if they know of any vacant homes. Mr. Warner thought that was a good idea and will look into doing this in the future.

Commissioner Sabo inquired if a customer could request their water be turned off for the winter. Mr. Warner stated that they could and some do. Mr. Warner stated the customers are not charged a fee for this service. Commissioner Hughes suggested that Mr. Warner notify the municipalities of this service so they can inform the residents.

Ms. Arter asked Mr. Warner if they get requests from banks to shut off water. Mr. Warner stated he didn't know for sure because those types of calls are handled by the Account Clerk in the Water Department.

OLD BUSINESS

Payment of Muskegon Charter Township Fire Hydrant Fees

Ms. Arter asked Mr. Kieft if he had an update. Mr. Kieft stated he did not. Mr. Kieft informed the Board that he had planned to have this on Muskegon Charter Townships meeting agenda in December; however this has changed and if Muskegon Charter Township's board members decide to do so it will be on the agenda for January's meeting, but at this time no further action has been taken by Muskegon Charter Township's board.

WSPB-14-054 Moved by Hall, seconded by St. Amour, that the Policy Board of the Muskegon County Regional Water System request Dalton Township, Fruitland Township, Laketon Township and the County of Muskegon authorize the taking of legal action on their respective behalf against Muskegon Township to collect past due amounts from Muskegon Township for the hydrant fee due and payable under the amended and restated Muskegon County Regional Water System management contract and the approved budget of the Muskegon County Regional Water System. Said legal action may include filing suit to enforce the contract and collect said past due amounts.

OLD BUSINESS CONT'D

Ms. Arter requested Mr. Bossenbroek to address the Board concerning this motion.

Discussion followed.

Commissioner Hughes stated her concerns over the funding of the system. Mr. Bossenbroek addressed her concerns. Mr. Bossenbroek referred to the comparison done by Mr. Warner and his staff; if they got rid of the Hydrant Fee and spread the costs among the users of the system based on the REU's the net effect of that would be Muskegon Township's residents would pay \$13,000.00 more. Commissioner Hughes asked Mr. Kieft if that is what he would want. Mr. Kieft stated that the rates and charges should be paid for by the users of the system.

Discussion continued.

Roll call:
Ayes – Mahoney, St. Amour, Sabo, Hall, Arter
Nays – Kieft, Hughes
Abstain – None

Motion carried

It was requested that Mr. Kieft bring a proposal to the Board for review.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Kieft asked Ms. Arter why the meeting was moved from Muskegon Charter Township hall to the Training Center. Ms. Arter stated she felt it was a better venue.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Matt VanHoef, attorney representing Muskegon Charter Township addressed the Board regarding the hydrant fee payment.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Water System Policy Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Kim Arter, Chair