

Muskegon County
Water System Policy Board
March 8, 2016
2:00 p.m.
Training Center
97 E. Apple Avenue, Room 119
Muskegon, Michigan 49442

Jerry McIntyre, Chair

Susie Hughes, Vice Chair

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL

Present: Kim Arter, Laketon Township Supervisor
Susie Hughes, Muskegon County Commissioner
David Kieft, Muskegon Charter Township Supervisor
Kenneth Mahoney, Muskegon County Commissioner
Jerry McIntyre, Dalton Township Supervisor
Jan Deur, Fruitland Township Trustee

Excused: Terry Sabo, Muskegon County Board Chair

Staff

Present: John Warner, Public Works Director
Tina Nash, DPW Departmental Clerk
Carly Hines, DPW Administrative Analyst
Robert Ribbens, Regional Water System Supervisor

Others

Present: David Bossenbroek, Attorney
Jerry Sanders, Muskegon Charter Township DPW Director
Chris Hall, Laketon Township Building Inspector
Ed Dewitt

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

WSPB-16-009 Moved by Kim Arter seconded by Jan Deur, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WSPB-16-010 Moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Kim Arter, to approve the minutes of the meeting held February 9, 2016.

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT (on an agenda item)

None

PRESENTATION – Demonstration of Meter Reading Equipment

Robert Ribbens began by explaining the advancements that have been made reading meters and how technology has improved over the years. Robert Ribbens had various types of meters used over the years to show the Board. Robert Ribbens demonstrated the process of meter readings and the equipment used. Jan Duer asked Robert Ribbens if his program shared a frequency with other common wireless devices. Robert Ribbens stated it does; however it is a bandwidth that isn't used much by other technology. Robert Ribbens stated with the equipment and technology used, he is able to bill out each month and it allows him to find water leaks much sooner. Jerry Sanders asked Robert Ribbens if he is able to read the meters manually. Robert Ribbens stated he is not. Robert Ribbens stated he is able to get about three (3) months of information from the encoders. He is able to print hour by hour graphs from that information. Robert Ribbens showed examples of different water leaks that have occurred and how he was able to use the new equipment to detect the leaks and show the customer a timeline graph of the leak. Chris Hall asked Robert Ribbens if the new pex piping is holding up. Robert Ribbens stated it is and he hasn't seen any problems. Jan Duer asked if the impurities in the water effect the meters. Robert Ribbens stated they do not. Robert Ribbens informed the Board that the new meters have zero lead to comply. Jerry Sanders asked Robert Ribbens if there are any lead services. Robert Ribbens stated none that he knows of. Chris Hall asked if the technology is available for customers to read their own meters online. Robert Ribbens stated it is; however it is very costly. The Board thanked Robert Ribbens.

INFORMATION ITEMS

WSPB-16-011 Moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Jan Duer, that the following information items be received and placed on file:

1. New Meter Set List for February 2016
2. Local Fund Balance Sheet for February 2016

Motion carried

REPORTS

Water System Update

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

Water System Update Continued

Commissioner Hughes asked John Warner if Michigan Adventure paid the same rate as others on the system. John Warner stated that they do. Commissioner Hughes asked if it costs more to run that system due to the extra maintenance needed in the winter months and if there is a way to recoup those costs. John Warner explained it is a system responsibility to keep fresh water in the lines and due to the high use in the summer by Michigan Adventure it helps the system during those months. Commissioner Hughes stated that the higher use in the summer offsets the extra maintenance needed in the winter. John Warner agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

Dewitt Damage Claim Update

John Warner gave a brief background on the claim by Ed Dewitt. John Warner stated both the County's and the City of Muskegon's insurance carriers have denied the claim due to governmental immunity. Ed Dewitt homeowners insurance also denied the claim. John Warner stated Ed Dewitt is asking for \$26,011.87 for his time cleaning/repairing his basement. John Warner introduced Ed Dewitt to the Board. Ed Dewitt explained what had occurred the night the water main broke in 2013. Ed Dewitt stated that City of Muskegon employees arrived to fix the break and he went outside to speak to them. Ed Dewitt stated that he was asked if he had water in his basement and Ed Dewitt told him he did. Ed Dewitt stated that four (4) days later he arrived home to find the City of Muskegon there to fix the sewer line. Ed Dewitt stated that this time water was pumped into his yard and flooded it. Last year John Warner had Restoration Services of the Lakeshore look at Ed Dewitt's basement and provide an estimate of what they would have charged for the repairs. The estimate from Restoration Services of the Lakeshore was for \$7,159.67. Ed Dewitt stated he did not like this company and John Warner asked him to contact a company of his choice and have them provide an estimate. Ed Dewitt stated he had started the process; however didn't complete it. Ed Dewitt told the Board there was only one other time he had water in his basement. It was in 1970 when an air check valve broke. Ed Dewitt stated he talked to the City and they told him to talk to the DPW office. Jan Duer asked Ed Dewitt if he had any other company give him an estimate for the repairs. Ed Dewitt stated he did his own work. John Warner stated he asked Ed Dewitt to provide a third party estimate but he never received it. Kim Arter asked if the \$26,000.00 figure was from a company. Commissioner Hughes clarified that the figure was from Ed Dewitt himself. Jan Duer asked John Warner of the \$26,000.00 how much of that was for Ed Dewitt's time. Discussion ensued concerning what kind of precedent this would set. Kim Arter asked Ed Dewitt if there was a reason he didn't hire a restoration company. Ed Dewitt stated he did the work. Chair McIntyre asked John Warner if he had a figure for Ed Dewitt's time. John Warner stated based on what Ed Dewitt submitted, \$18,968.00 was for his time and \$7,043.87 was for materials. John Warner informed the Board that no receipts were received for the materials. Commissioner Hughes asked if this could be brought back to the City.

WSPB 16-012 I was moved by Commissioner Hughes, seconded by Kim Arter to table this to the next meeting and have John Warner to speak to the City and asked them if they would come to the next meeting.

Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Hughes thanked John Warner for the presentation given by Robert Ribbens.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Jerry Sanders asked John Warner if there were any scheduled maintenance for the water tank by Muskegon Township's DPW office. John Warner stated he would have someone look at it.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Water System Policy Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Jerry McIntyre, Chair