

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN  
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION  
Thursday June 28, 2011  
Van Buren Township Hall  
46425 Tyler Road

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Board Room by Chairman Pedersen. Members present: Chairman Peterson, Commissioner Cook, Commissioner Graf and Trustee Partridge. Absent and excused: Commissioner Rochowiak. Others present Director Tom Mac Donald, Secretary Karen Smith, Deputy Treasurer Sean Bellingham and Dave Nummer of Wade Trim in Audience.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chairman Petersen requested that the agenda be revised so that Item # 2 in New Business be discussed before Item # 1. Trustee Partridge Moved and Commissioner Cook Seconded, Agenda was approved changes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Trustee Partridge and seconded by Commissioner Cook to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2011 Water & Sewer Special Commission meeting. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Water Tower Project Update-Tower is being filled today (6/28/11) it should be completely filled by end of day tomorrow (6/29/11), and then it has to sit full for 24 hours followed by water sample test. It will sit thru the long weekend and is projected to go on-line manually next week. It will run in manual mode for a couple weeks making proper adjustments with a target of, end of July to go full automatic.

Water Tower Lighting Update-We have asked for proposals from our contractors to get the Township name illuminated on the tower however there is still no good or cost effective way to have this done. Some of the things that are a hindrance are; we cannot put lights shining up from ground it would be considered light pollution per the EPA and due to proximity of Willow Run Airport there are very strict guidelines of what light have to be on the tower and ones that cannot be on the tower. Additionally the exterior painting of the tower is very expensive so welding on the tower itself to mount lights on it, is not an option. We are still looking for a possible solution that is both plausible and cost effective.

SHVUA Manhole Project- There is 1 out of 9 manholes completed. Currently there are conversation with the three main parties involved, United Water, Wayne Co and Van Buren Township to come up with a three way agreement and get this project back underway in next couple of weeks.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Proposal for Mid-Year Water and Sewer Rate Increase- Director MacDonald and Deputy Treasurer Bellingham presented the water and sewer operating cost analysis for the past several years (which included a projection for next year's cost) showing the Sewer operation are currently running in deficit. The reason for this is; current rates for sewer are not adequate to operate the department. They offered a plan to increase sewer rates (cons charges and flat rates only) 16 %. There was then a very lengthy question and answer period to exam all the information presented Commissioner Graf motioned to present proposal to Township Board for approval Trustee Partridge seconded. Motion carried.

Fire Hydrant Painting Project-We are in the process of hiring at least 2 Temp/Seasonal people to get this project underway. We have taken all steps to follow the AFSCME contract in regard to these Temp/Seasonal persons. Our original hope of getting ¼ of the hydrants done this year may not be realistic goal since we are getting started so late in the year due to the weather breaking so late.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None