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LEONI TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
August 25, 2009

The Leoni Township Board of Trustees held a special meeting Tuesday, August 26, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. in the Leoni Township Meeting Hall, 913 Fifth St., Michigan Center, Michigan.

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Supervisor Todd Brittain, Clerk Michele Manke and Trustees Dan Hunt, Judy Southworth, Joan Spicer and Jerry Ambs.

Members Absent: Treasurer Brenda Vreeland

75 People in Attendance

Purpose of meeting was to hold a Public Hearing on residential water meters and discuss over billing with Columbia Township.

Motion by Southworth supported by Spicer to open the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m.

Motion Carried by Voice Vote

Presentation regarding water rates was given by Chuck Olson from OMM Engineering.

Bill Warner – 5615 Viking Dr.

What is the average water usage of City residents? Do we have a deficit in the Water fund? What is the main drive for the Township to put meters in? Asking Board to think hard because it is not a good economical time to do this. Doesn't believe that the ones that use more should pay more. If there is no deficit then why rock the boat?

Troy Henry – 3421 Sunnyheart

Said that the auto flusher runs constantly – Art addressed that and said that the flushers are not currently in operation. Mr. Henry stated that in the petition it stated no meters.

Larry Henry – 3414 & 3406 Sunnyheart

Opposed to meters and suggested that all future water hook ups have to be hooked. Wants to Grandfather the existing customers.

Dar Marsh – 7183 Sanctuary Dr.

Why put meters in if there is no deficit? Sees no reason spend more money on the system. \$10.00 a month for life is not realistic and agreed that inflation costs will drive up the quarterly bill forget the meters and let's move on.

Pat Salisbury – 5616 Holly Dr.

The newspaper said there would be no charge to the residents but the letter they received from the Township stated there could be a cost to the owner. Lots of people are being hit in the pocketbook and thinks it is not a good idea.

Barbara McEllis – 5604 Holly Dr.

Lived there for 45 years – water was \$3.00 per month back then. Why does the meter have to be put inside the home? It is an invasion of privacy!

Bill Pitch from Etna supply said that you can install a meter pit outside of the home.

Angie Rath – 5678 Poplar

When house hunting picked this area because everything was already set and family was close by so just bought here. Money is tight and boyfriend just got laid off.

Dan Laughlin – 5558 Ponderosa Dr.

Did some checking and the company Etna supply is not local. Will they have the option of hiring their own local contractor?

Bill Pitch from Etna supply stated that they do have a Jackson office and has had it for 2 years now.

Pat Hill – 722 Fifth St.

One of the 1st houses on 5th St. How many houses that are on the system are abusing the system? Heard a rumor that some are sharing water with their neighbors? Feels the Township should concentrate more on the quality of the water.

Kevin Lawrence – Infrastructure Alternatives – licensed water tech

Wanted to make everyone aware of the expenses that Township has and will have. Just rebuilt the pumps in the pump houses, Water tower improvements and to be fair the more you use the more you should pay.

Jim Giroux – 3920 Donnelly Rd.

Did not appreciate the way the letter read. Felt that it basically said that it was a done deal and people would get more involved if they knew what was going on.

Linda Dull – 5578 Dogwood

Not in favor of meters. They are retired and on a fixed income and doesn't need another expense. If watering the lawn is the issue than people could mow on either odd or even days depending on their address. Not happy with meters!

Supervisor asked for a show of hands of who was in favor of the meters..... no one raised their hand He then asked for those that oppose to raise their hand..... the entire audience raised their hands.

Larry Henry – 3414 & 3406 Sunnyheart

Is there an extra expense if a homeowner chooses to install a meter pit?

Bill Pitch from Etna stated yes.

Trustee Southworth stated that \$10.00 is very reasonable and you can't expect that user rate to never go up.

General discussion on when house sells, new house is built or new subdivision is created they would get a meter and the existing would be grandfathered in.

Stacy Murray – 408 5th St.

Would metered water deter potential buyers?

Motion by Spicer supported by Manke to close the Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m.

Motion Carried by Voice Vote

Motion by Manke supported by Spicer to reimburse Columbia Township \$120,000.00 for overpayment of sewer service from December 2007 thru March 2009.

Roll Call Vote: 6 Yeas, Southworth, Spicer, Hunt, Manke, Ambs and Brittain
0 Nays

Motion Carried

Motion by Manke supported Spicer to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Motion Carried by Voice Vote

Michele Manke, Clerk