

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BREITUNG  
WATER/SEWER BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019 @ 6PM**

1. **Call to Order** At 6 p.m. by Chair Doug Powell

**Roll Call**

**Present:** Chair Doug Powell, Vice-Chair Jesse Land (arrived at 6:03pm), Secretary David Soderbloom, Leon (Pat) Patterson,

**Absent:** Michelle Pilkington (absent)

**Also Present:** Superintendent John Gaudette      **YES**  
DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom      **YES**

2. **Pledge to the Flag**
3. **Public Comment** (3 min. each) (for topics not on the agenda)

Pat Hayes of Cass Street in Kingsford addressed the W/S Board to express his opposition to the proposed water line abandonment. Mr. Hayes stated that since the water line was there, why abandon it?

DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom explained that the house has been disconnected from the water line for many years. The line is approximately 1600 feet of 2” galvanized water pipe and very old. The potential for leaks is significant and the cost for repairs will be astronomical.

Mitch Leinen of Niagara, WI also addressed the W/S Board to express his opposition to the proposed water line abandonment. Mr. Leinen is the one former water user on the line and has plans for the property that will require water service.

4. **Approval of the agenda**  
Motion by Jesse Land, Seconded by Leon (Pat) Patterson, to approve the agenda.

Carried - unanimous

5. **Approval of the previous meeting minutes from November 1, 2018 and April 4, 2019**  
Motion by David Soderbloom, Seconded by Jesse Land to approve the minutes.

Carried - unanimous

6. **Old Business**

None

7. **New Business**
  - a) Water Line Abandonment

DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom explained that there has been no water consumption on the line since 2017, and the water main was turned off in 2018. Superintendent Forstrom explained that a costly

leak on the old galvanized water line is a possibility. In addition, running a new 6" main water line for one customer is not feasible. After much discussion, Superintendent Forstrom proposed that if approved, the water could be turned on in order to evaluate the condition of the water line.

Motion by Leon (Pat) Patterson, Seconded by David Soderbloom to turn on the water line for evaluation. The motion, however, was made with the contingency if any issues occur, the DPW will not make any costly repairs to the water line.

Carried - unanimous

**b) Quinnesec Water Main & Back-Up Well Exploration Project Design Proposals**

Information was provided to the W/S Board members. No actions were required since the Board of Trustees already approved an award to Coleman Engineering.

**c) Lead & Copper Rules (LCR) Compliance Costs**

DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom enlightened the W/S Board regarding the new costly mandates issued by the EPA and the MDEQ. Essentially, the EPA and the MDEQ have mandated that all galvanized water service lines with lead goosenecks must be replaced within the next twenty years. Starting in 2020, the EPA/ MDEQ mandate states that all of the galvanized water service lines must be replaced and continue at a pace of 5% each per year until all lines are replaced. The cost of the replacement service lines will be borne by rate payers. The replacement costs are extremely high, with the current estimate to be more than \$150,000 per year for Breitung Township's water systems. The \$150,000 will repeat each year and continue for the next twenty years.

Motion by David Soderbloom, Seconded by Leon (Pat) Patterson to request the Board of Trustees to pass a resolution opposing the mandated LCR compliance upgrades in systems that meet the standards.

Carried - unanimous

**d) PFAS Discussion**

DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom educated the W/S Board regarding the latest information on the PFAS chemicals that have contaminated some water systems in Lower Michigan. The fire suppression chemicals (PFAS) used by the US Air Force and other agencies have resulted in contamination of a small number of water supplies. Quinnesec wells and one Kingsford well tested at zero concentrations of the PFAS related chemicals. One Kingsford's well tested with a minute amount of PFAS. The amount was minimal, and significantly less than the EPA level of 70 ppt. (parts per trillion) The PFAS chemical concentration in the Kingsford well was 3 ppt.

e) Water/Sewer Board Authority Delegation

DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom explained to the W/S Board that in rare instances, some water users are unable to pay their large bill. The large bill usually resulted from an undetected leak. Since the Water Operator or the Utility Clerk are the primary contact for customers with billing issues, the recommendation from Superintendent Guy Forstrom to the W/S Board is to allow a delegation of authority to either the Water Operator or the Utility Clerk to provide a hardship extension to the customer. The payment extension could then be authorized by the Water Operator and/ or the Utility Clerk.

Motion by Leon (Pat) Patterson, Seconded by Jesse Land to authorize the Water Operator or the Utility Clerk to grant an extension of time for payment in the event of extreme hardship. (see 52.081 Delinquent payments Item (A) (5)). If authorization has been granted to extend payment by the Water Operator or the Utility Clerk, the W/S Board must be informed of the hardship extension at the next meeting.

Carried - unanimous

**8. DPW & Township Superintendent's Reports to Board**

DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom provided an explanation of the letter sent to the East Kingsford water customers requesting their assistance in testing for lead. The new Lead & Copper Rules requires that even consecutive systems must test and comply with the stricter regulations. Superintendent Forstrom was able to obtain enough homeowners to agree to the testing (Total of ten), so the process is moving forward.

Superintendent John Gaudette had no additional comments.

**9. Members' Discretionary Time**

Next meeting date was set for August 1, 2019 at 7 p.m., unless other business requires a special meeting.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion by Jesse Land, Seconded by Leon (Pat) Patterson to adjourn the

May 7, 2019 meeting at 7:18 p.m.

Carried - unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

David Soderbloom  
Secretary