

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF BREITUNG
WATER/SEWER BOARD MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2018 – 7:00pm**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Doug Powell at 7:01pm

1. Roll Call

Present: Chairman Doug Powell, Jesse Land, Secretary Dave Soderbloom

Absent: Michelle Pilkington (excused)

Also Present: Township Superintendent John Gaudette and DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom

2. Pledge to the flag was recited by all.

3. Public Comment

NONE

4. Motion by Jesse Land, Seconded by David Soderbloom to approve the agenda for November 1, 2018

Motion carried, unanimously

5. Motion by David Soderbloom, Seconded by Jesse Land to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2017 and the July 5, 2018 Water/Sewer Board meetings.

Motion carried, unanimously

6. Old Business

a. Quinnesec Water Tank and Roof

Members were updated on the roof status. Breitung Township Board of Trustees had solicited bids and received only one bid. The bid was deemed non-compliant. After clarification of the bid information, new bids were solicited. The revised bids were considered high, and not accepted by the Township Board of Trustees. DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom updated members on the work completed at the tank site. The tank "cover" was re-sealed and the seams were re-caulked. A berm around the tank was removed and gravel was placed near the tank to minimize weeds and insects near the tank.

b. Asset Management Plan

Superintendent John Gaudette updated members on the Asset Management Plan for Quinnesec and East Kingsford. MDEQ has approved proceeding with Asset Management Plan. In the future, the following upgrades will be required for the Quinnesec Water system.

1. Replacing water main on Quinnesec Avenue from River Street to the tank.
2. Replacing water main on Lake Avenue from River Street north to intersection of Brule and Quinnesec Avenues.
3. Include tie in 12" water main on Highway US-2.

Motion by Jesse Land, Seconded by David Soderbloom to request the Breitung Township Board of Trustees to send out Request for Proposals (RFPs) to engineering firms to provide design work for the items 1, 2, and 3 detailed above.

Motion carried, unanimously

c. Hoadley and Maple Street Projects

Superintendent John Gaudette updated members on the Kingsford meter pit and Hoadley water main near Maple Street in East Kingsford. Project was bid late and DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom, in consultation with the contractor, expressed concerns about completing the work before winter. Therefore, the project was

put on hold until 2019. Some material have been purchased and contractor has agreed to hold the same labor costs for 2019. Additionally, Dickinson County Road Commission had apprehensions regarding street preparations and paving so late in the year.

This is a joint project with the City of Kingsford. The Breitung Township Board of Trustees has signed a new water service with the City for the West Breitung service area.

7. New Business

a. Backup Well Exploration Request

Superintendent John Gaudette and DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom updated members on the need for a backup well for the Quinnesec water system. Currently, Quinnesec water system has two operating wells (Well #3 and Well #4) and backup wells (Well #5 and Well #6) near the Dickinson County Baler facility. Wells 3 and 4 are currently supplying the needs of the system but there are concerns that if either well should fail, the system will be in a perilous situation. Connecting to existing wells 5 and 6 will be costly (roughly \$2,071,000) and Superintendent Guy Forstrom explained that exploring and finding new potential wells may be more cost effective. The current operating wells are old and may need to be replaced in the foreseeable future.

Motion by Jesse Land, Seconded by David Soderbloom to request that the Breitung Township Board of Trustees send out Request for Proposals (RFPs) to engineering firms to identify possible well locations for the Quinnesec water system.

Motion carried, unanimously.

b. Water Loss Audit Requirements

DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom updated the Water and Sewer Board on the water losses. A spreadsheet was provided detailing the losses recorded since 1979. Leaks, let-runs, meter inaccuracies, hydrant flushing, fire suppression, etc. are the primary reasons for water losses. DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom explained water losses less than 20% are normal. DPW employees continue to identify and repair leaks on a regular basis.

c. Rate Increases

Superintendent John Gaudette provided a letter from the City of Iron Mountain regarding the sewer increase for the East Kingsford Commercial sewer system (Jimmy Johns, Forward Financial Credit Union, etc). Since the City of Iron Mountain raised rates to \$.05/1,000 gallons, the increase will be passed on to the users at the rate of \$.10/1,000 gallons (twice the purchase rate). The sell rate of two times the purchase cost was previously approved by the Breitung Township Board of Trustees.

d. Rate Increases (C.O.L.A.)

Superintendent John Gaudette provided various indices detailing the expected changes (increasing) in the "cost of living" in the United States. After discussion, the Water/Sewer Board decided to raise the water rates for East Kingsford Residential and East Kingsford Commercial by 2%. Approval for the Water/Sewer Board to automatically implement cost of living increases was delegated to the Water/Sewer Board by the Breitung Township Board of Trustees. The increase will take effect on January 1, 2019. The Water/Sewer Board, after discussion, determined that the Quinnesec Water System must increase the fund balance to provide adequate funding for necessary upgrades and repairs. Therefore, a motion was proposed as follows:

Motion by David Soderbloom, Seconded by Jesse Land, to request the Breitung Township Board of Trustees to increase the water rates for the Quinnesec water system by 5%. This percentage is broken down by a 2% cost-of-living increase and a 3% increase for fund balance improvement.

Motion carried, unanimously

8. Superintendent's Report to the Board

a. Township Superintendent

Superintendent John Gaudette suggested the Water/Sewer Board meet every other month starting in February 2019. If there is no pending actions or business, the meeting can be cancelled by Superintendent John Gaudette. Request to approve the updated schedule for the Water/Sewer Board will be made to the Breitung Township Board of Trustees.

b. Department of Public Works Superintendent

DPW Superintendent Guy Forstrom provided an update on the boil alert that was issued earlier this year for the Quinnesec water system. Testing for coliform and E-Coli bacteria are conducted on a regular basis. Earlier this year, the Quinnesec water system, at Well 4, had a positive E-Coli bacteria test. Subsequent tests were immediately conducted, and all successive tests were negative for coliform and E-Coli. In an abundance of caution, a boil order was issued for the Quinnesec water system. Per MDEQ requirements, chlorination was done for about four weeks afterwards. NO other positive tests have resulted. The E-Coli bacteria positive test appears to have been an anomaly.

9. Member's Comments

NONE

10. Adjournment

Motion by David Soderbloom, Seconded by Jesse Land to adjourn November 1, 2018's Water/Sewer Board at 8:16pm.

Motion carried, unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary David Soderbloom