

**GAINES CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
WATER & SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES ~ JULY 26, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A Water & Sewer Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Tim Haagsma at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, July 26, 2010 at the Gaines Charter Township Offices located at 8555 Kalamazoo Avenue SE, Caledonia, Michigan 49316.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Brian Tingley, Tim Haagsma, Don R. Hilton, Sr., Jeff Gritter, Jan Boone  
Members Absent: None  
Others Present: None

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

*Brian Tingley made a motion to approve the May 5, 2010 minutes as written, supported by Jan Boone.*

Discussion: None.  
Ayes: All.  
Nays: None.  
Abstain: None.

**VARIANCE REQUEST – 6945 KALAMAZOO AVENUE**

Jeff presented a variance request submitted by contractor Jim Meek on behalf of the owners of the property located at 6945 Kalamazoo Avenue. Mr. Meek has requested a variance from Article 12, Section 1202 c. of the Water & Sewer Ordinance requiring copper water service. Mr. Meek is requesting to install polyethylene piping instead of copper due to the expense of installing over 500' of copper service. This request is almost identical to the request for 677 – 100<sup>th</sup> Street which was approved by the Township Board at their regular meeting on May 10, 2010.

*Jeff Gritter made a motion to recommend approval to the Township Board of the request for variance from Article 12, Section 1202 c. of the Gaines Township Water & Sewer Ordinance submitted by Jim Meek for 6945 Kalamazoo Avenue, supported by Jan Boone.*

Discussion:

Don mentioned that there are different grades of polyethylene piping available.

Jeff replied that there is a grade that meets the drinking water standards which has a thicker wall thickness.

Tim asked if the grade would be specified in the approval.

Jeff replied that the water service would still need to meet the standards and conditions of the Byron-Gaines Utility Authority, AWWA, and the State of Michigan. In addition, the water service will be inspected by the BGUA during installation.

Ayes: All.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

### **SEWER USE CHARGE REQUEST – 7179 OLD LANTERN DRIVE**

Jeff presented a request for relief from sewer use charges submitted by David and Nichole Kooistra of 7179 Old Lantern Drive. The Kooistras bought a foreclosed property in August 2009. They hired an electrician to perform some work on the house. The electrician unplugged the sump pump while the work was being completed and did not plug it back in. The home has a water driven back-up sump pump which ran for an extended period of time causing a water & sewer bill in the amount of \$912.59. The water from the sump pump went into the storm sewer system instead of the sanitary sewer system. There is limited usage history as the Kooistras have only been customers of the utility system for one quarter. Based on that usage for that quarter, a refund of \$439.28 is recommended.

Tim said that he feels for the Kooistras, but the Township didn't do anything to cause this issue.

Jan said that it would be nice to give them the benefit of the doubt. This was a surprise bill.

Jeff stated that there would be no break on the water portion of the bill. The only adjustment would be to the sewer bill.

*Don R. Hilton, Sr. made a motion to recommend the Township Board approve a refund in the amount of \$400.00 supported by Brian Tingley.*

Discussion: None.

Ayes: All.

Nays: None.

Abstain: None.

### **MOBILE HOME CONTAINMENT PROGRAM – GRAND MOBILE HOME PARK**

Jeff stated that Mike Kortman provided a summary of the containment project at the Grand Mobile Home Park. Mike reports that the project is basically complete and the final cost came in at less than the Board approved. The project went well as did using our own people for plumbing and excavating.

**WYOMING UPDATE**

Jeff stated that Byron and Gaines Townships met with the City of Wyoming a month ago to discuss the Water Supply Agreement. Initial projections show an increase of 7% however, not all of that would be passed on to our customers. A meeting to discuss the Water Cost of Service study will held in a month or so.

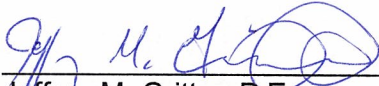
**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Tim Haagsma adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted:



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Jeffrey M. Gritter, P.E.  
Township Engineer