

**MINUTES**  
**LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP**  
**UTILITY BOARD MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 2006**  
**12:00 NOON**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting called to order by Supervisor John Gast at 12:00 Noon.

**ROLL CALL**

Board members present were John Gast, Supervisor; Gloria Payne, Clerk; Betty Korcek, Treasurer, Trustees Tom Carson, James Stine, Jr., Terry Eichler and William "Bill" Geukes.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Stewart Beach, Water Plant Superintendent  
Scott Dienes, Lake Charter Township's Attorney  
Larry Merritt, Merritt Engineering

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

With one correction to the minutes, it was moved by Korcek seconded by Geukes to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2006 utility board meeting. All ayes, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

After reversing the order of the agenda, it was moved by Payne seconded by Stine to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

***Chikaming Water Agreement***

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Scott Dienes, of DeFrancesco and Dienes, Lake Charter Township's counsel. Mr. Dienes recommended that the Chikaming Water Agreement not be reinvented, but rather document what we do, i.e., treat them as a wholesale customer. Doing a rate study is an accepted way of increasing rates. Today's water rates should pay for today's usage. Rather than making Chikaming pay for portions of projects, we need to recoup the cost slowly through the rates we charge. Otherwise, we could potentially be treating them as a co-owner and we don't want to do that. Language should also include that we would pay for the upgrade because we will benefit incrementally through realistic planning via the rate study. Further, put language in the agreement that is based upon cost of service to justify the expense. If the upgrades are recouped through rates vs. project - then there is no ownership confusion. The science is identifying which is integrated and non-integrated.

Attorney Dienes recommended that we put on paper bullet points of what we have been doing and get a meeting together with Chikaming and discuss what we want in the agreement. A copy of the water study will be given to Attorney Dienes. Attorney Dienes will meet with Supervisor Gast, Trustee Geukes, Trustee Stine and Stewart Beach, Lake Charter Township Water Plant

Superintendent to work on the agreement and have the Master Plan, which is to be prepared by Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber, address the future expansion issues.

Snow Road Bids

Supervisor Gast turned the floor over to Larry Merritt of Merritt Engineering who prepared and reviewed the five bids received on August 24, 2006. It is Merritt Engineering's recommendation that this contract be awarded to Hollerbach Excavating based on their low bid of \$594,942.00. The project could be started in October and they are willing to get as much done in 2006. A time frame and financial projection is forthcoming.

Supervisor Gast recommended that we approve/disapprove this project at our next regular board meeting on September 18, 2006.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Stewart Beach stated that we are in need of a water policy regarding turn-on's and turn-off's. Supervisor Gast and Stewart Beach will work on developing a policy to put in place.

Further, Stewart Beach presented to board members a site plan regarding the proposed interconnect at Red Arrow Highway and Linco Road. Currently mutual aid is used in an emergency. St. Joseph calls Stewart and if they need water in an emergency, we open the valve and provide them water and vice versa. An Agreement will be negotiated with Great Lake Water/Sewer Authority.

**NEXT MEETING**

October 3, 2006 at 12:00 Noon.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Stine seconded by Geukes to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Gloria A. Payne, Clerk

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

John Gast, Supervisor