

**Joint City and Portage Township
Sewer and Water Committee Meeting Minutes
07/07/2014**

Where: Houghton City Center Conference Room

When: 4:00P.M.

Who Present: Andrew Kemper, Peggy Anderson, & Bruce Petersen
from Portage Township **Plus** City of Houghton's Sewer and Water Committee,
Eric Waara and Scott MacInnes

Discussion Points:

- Bruce Petersen from Portage Twp. opened the conversation with a discussion of the “yet to be paid” month of April – sewer bill from the City of Houghton totaling \$45,006.73 of which there was \$17,737.53 worth of penalty overage charges above our basic allotment of 100,000 gallons per day. Nineteen of the thirty days this month had flows in excess of 100,000 gallons – due to the frozen ground, high snow loading/runoff, our three month keep run policy, illegal sump pump out letting plus possible pipe fractures/displacement. He then indicated that this bill would severally tax our sewer and water budget and that this spike was largely attributed to our last winters’ weather condition. The months following the April billing have fallen to a reasonable level. He asked the City Committee for some sort of cost reduction on the penalty portion of the April billing could be instituted.
- Scott from the City gave the group some institutional background information about the 1980 vintage Township contract. Portage Township chose not to become a partner in the Portage Lake Sewage Authority; initially the cities of Houghton and Hancock were the original partners in the Authority. Because of this the Twp. negotiated a 100,000 base flow rate that if it is exceeded the 25,000 gallon penalty steps were imposed. All of the local Units of Government experienced large, spring flow spikes too. Basically, the City will not forgive any of the penalty portion of the Aprils fee but they offered to put the TWP on a time payment plan if that would be of any benefit.
- Our Green Acres Road proposed sewer project was discussed next. Another, separate sewage agreement would have to be negotiated for that new service area with the City, the same way the separate waste water treatment contract for Dakota Heights was struck.
- The last discussion point was the dead end water line located on the western end of Woodland Road. This spring there were 6 breaks that needed repair in the last 600 to 700 feet of line due to no flows moving thru the line. This last winter there were no residents in either the old Gunlock House or the Jim Ruppe House so there was no water flow in that end of the line. Eric Waara indicated that we could

not tie in to the MTU water system which would then turn them in to a water supplier and would force that Administration to have a certified Water Technician on staff. So the only other option might be the City service line that might also run near the end of Woodland Road. Mark Zenner would know its' location and he will be back on the following Monday. He should be contacted about this then.

- Adjourned: 11:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Petersen
Portage Township Supervisor