

Charter Township of Portage - Houghton, Michigan

DATE: November 10, 2015

Winter Water let Run Policy

This letter addresses the Charter Township of Portage's Winter Water Let-Run Policy for the winter of 2015/2016. It is based on a resolution passed by the Board of Trustees at their November 9, 2015 monthly board meeting. The Let-Run Policy can also be viewed on-line at the Twp's home page at: www.portagetownship.info.

In the past the Township, at its discretion, has paid for thawing lines electrically; plus, it has given water customers breaks on their water bills during our coldest winter months. The combination of having to purchase the water plus the elevated treatment costs has been excessive, sending our Sewer and Water Funds into debt. Because of these high costs the Township has been forced to make some changes to our keep run and pipe thawing policy.

Ultimately, it is in the best interest of the homeowner to carefully monitor their water flows/temperatures over the coldest months to avoid the cost of having an electrical arc welder thaw your pipes.

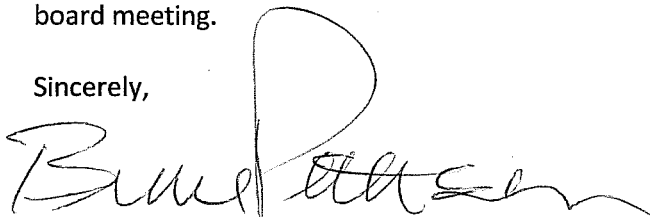
Homeowners who reside at a residence that has previously experienced frozen pipes should carefully read and understand this new policy statement.

- The general rule of thumb is to let your water run from one faucet at a rate of 1/8 gallon per minute which translates in to filling a one quart container in one to two minutes or obviously filling a gallon milk jug in approximately eight minutes. Visibly that looks like a "pencil lead" thickness.
- The homeowner will bear the cost of letting water run.
- The Township will no longer pay for electric arc welder costs to thaw frozen pipes. If you notice that the water flow lessens and or the water temperature of your water falls below the 40 degree range it would be in your best interest to let your water run as described above. It is very costly to have the lines thawed.

Due to the cost of our past let-run winter freeze up policy which placed the Township's Funds in debt forcing rate changes for all, this more affordable policy will lessen Township costs and lessen the potential for future rate increases.

This policy was unanimously passed and adopted at the Township's November 9, 2015 monthly board meeting.

Sincerely,



Bruce Petersen
Township Supervisor