

**FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP SPECIAL WATER BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 14, 2014, FORD RIVER TOWNSHIP HALL**

Called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Supervisor Rachael Fountaine, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Rachael Fountaine, Patty Anderson, Delor Wellman, and Gary Boudreau, A. Wagner.

Members absent: None

**AGENDA**

Letter from Jake Thorsen

A written request has been received from J. Thorsen of 3563 K Road Bark River asking that the Board consider a payment plan that he is proposing to pay off his delinquent water bill of \$464.10 and appeared for a hearing. He explained that the harsh winter and being self-employed has caused him financial hardship. At this time, he is facing potential foreclosure on his home and that many of his other bills are also delinquent. His expenses have been up but his business has been down, causing many of his bills to be in arrears.

G. Boudreau mentioned that maybe getting a regular job might be a more financially sound plan for him rather than being self-employed but Mr. Thorsen explained that he needs \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00 per month to pay his bills.

D. Wellman explained that in tough times, people can go to St. Vincent de Paul or the Salvation Army for assistance with utility bills. Mr. Thorsen explained that he has gone to DHS, CAA and the Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul and they have no funding at this time to assist him. D. Wellman also mentioned in the past, that the Board has allowed others to participate in a payment plan.

R. Fountaine mentioned that Mr. Thorsen has not made many payments in the last ten months. She also voiced the opinion that it is partly the Township's fault for letting the bill get as high as it did and not shutting off his water sooner. However, it was recommended not to turn the water off during the past harsh winter as it might cause the pipes to leak, which could end up causing problems for the Township.

Mr. Thorsen stated that he could pay \$100.00 today and \$100.00 per month to get caught up on his delinquent bill. G. Boudreau commended Mr. Thorsen for requesting this meeting and meeting with the Board today.

Wagner proposed that Mr. Thorsen pay \$139.00 per month, beginning today which would be \$100.00 towards the arrears and \$39.00 for his current bill and continue to do so until the said debt is paid off.

R. Fountaine made it clear to Mr. Thorsen that if he misses a month's payment of the \$139.00 that his water would be immediately shut off and not turned back on until full payment was received. There would also be a turnoff/turn on fee. Mr. Thorsen was notified that this is his last chance and that no further consideration would be granted to him.

Moved, G. Boudreau, seconded, D. Wellman, CARRIED, to allow Mr. Thorsen to pay \$139.00 per month until full amount of bill is paid with the understanding that if any payment is missed, his water would be shut off until payment of the unpaid bill was satisfied.

Mr. Thorsen paid \$140.00 in cash and was given a receipt by A. Wagner

D. Wellman announced that he would no longer give support to H2O and the water system and would not be available for problems. He did dispute allegations in the H2O report of May, stating that he was acting as a representative of the Ford River Township Water Board and that much of the information which was in the May report from H2O was inaccurate.

Moved, G. Boudreau, seconded, R. Fountaine, CARRIED, to adjourn at 1:45 p.m.

*P Anderson*

P. Anderson, Township Clerk

*7/14/14*

Date