

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 26, 2011

A special meeting of the Town of Hounsfield Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Timothy Scee at the Town Hall, 18774 Co. Rt. 66 at 1 PM to review and possibly act on a water IMA with the City of Watertown for Water District 5. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members present were: Supervisor Scee, Councilmen; Stephen Lee, David Cobb, Todd Farrington, and Vincent Battista.

Supervisor Scee asked if there were any concerns from the Board members with the potential IMA and C'man Battista was concerned about the mention of Water District 6 several times when there is no Dist. 6 yet. He was also concerned with mention of increasing fees for outside users, calling our water operator a water superintendent, an expiration date of 2013 and charging their own additional fees for new users. He would like to have a public hearing on this IMA and thinks the Town should wait for Sackets Harbor to have water capacity enough to serve District 5 instead of purchasing water outside our Town or using well water that is, in his opinion, inferior in quality.

A discussion was held about District 6 and Supervisor Scee explained that Dist. 6 was included in the agreement instead of amending the agreement with the city council when it is constructed. C'man Battista would prefer to use the words "future development" in the agreement. C'man Lee added that there are no set boundaries for Dist. 6 yet. C'man Cobb thought that Dist. 6 was the rest of the Town that didn't have water yet, that it included himself and he did not want water from Watertown or the wells.

The Clerk to the Supervisor offered that the use of Water Superintendent in the agreement was because it is listed as such in the Civil Service Law.

C'man Lee explained that this IMA will be good for 30 years but the expiration date of 2013 is an opportunity to renegotiate.

C'man Battista and C'man Cobb asked about the rate and C'man Lee explained that it will be a total of \$5.45 per thousand gal. from City of Watertown and Town of Watertown. C'man Cobb stated that there will be an additional charge for

operation and maintenance from Town of Hounsfield and with a proposed increase of 20% from the City the rate could go to over \$7 per K gal. before the O & M.

C'man Lee stated that there is no minimum charge from the City in this agreement.

C'man Cobb insisted that a public hearing needs to be held before this IMA is approved. After quoting a Town Law manual, he stated that a public hearing needs to be held before approving the IMA with the City because it would be changing the rate and source for District 2 water users. C'man Lee stated that there is no reason for a public hearing now because water from the wells will also be used and the rate has not been set yet. C'man Cobb stated that the wells have been a great thing for Bernier, Carr but not for anybody else. He is very concerned about the quality of the well water. Water Operator, Jeff Kenney reported that the Department of Health recommended that the wells be blended with the municipal water to reduce the levels of disinfectant by products in the Town water. Supervisor Scee stated he was against a public hearing until the Town has more information to give the residents.

C'man Cobb made a motion to hold a public hearing for all water districts on changes due to water district 5, use of the wells and an IMA to purchase water from the City of Watertown and C'man Battista 2nd this motion. After more discussion and a call to Attorney Renzi a roll call vote was taken: C'man Cobb and C'man Battista voted yes and C'man Farrington, C'man Lee and Supervisor Scee voted no. This motion was defeated. C'man Cobb commented that turning down a public hearing will help the suit.

C'man Cobb asked who wrote the bid notice that was in the newspaper and asked if the Board has a copy of the specs. C'man Lee suggested that he contact the Highway Superintendent.

A motion was made by C'man Lee and 2nd by C'man Farrington to authorize Supervisor Scee to sign the IMA for water with the City of Watertown. A discussion was held. C'man Cobb commented that this would be an absolute disaster, it is poor judgment and lack of respect for the tax payer and every resident and it pulls money out of this community. C'man Battista agreed that it is totally wrong. C'man Lee answered that the Town has spent a lot of money on District 5 and there is a deadline to meet for a completed application for the funding, which an IMA for a second water source is a part of. He also commented that a public hearing was held for Dist. 5 residents and other interested persons and there were very few objections. He added that the testing on the wells reported that the water is fine quality and using the wells will take care of the disinfectant by product problem and will be a lower rate to the customer. The Town will not sell water that is not a quality product. In a roll call vote C'man Battista and C'man Cobb voted no; C'man Farrington, C'man Lee and Supervisor Scee voted yes. The motion was carried.

This meeting was adjourned at 1:43 PM.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier

