

ROBINSON TOWNSHIP WATER BOARD
October 20, 2020

The special meeting of the Robinson Township Water Board was called to order at 5:40 PM at the Robinson Township Hall.

Present

Bill Maschewske
Kurt Koella
Milt Reeths

Absent

Sherri Koetsier
One position vacant

Also present was Supervisor Kathy Kuck.

There were no members of the public present.

A motion was made by Bill Maschewske and seconded by Milt Reeths to elect Kurt Koella as Chairperson.

There were no other nominations.

Kurt Koella was unanimously elected Chairperson with one member absent and one position vacant.

A motion was made by Milt Reeths and seconded by Kurt Koella to approve the February 23, 2015 Water Board minutes as written.

The motion carried unanimously with one member absent and one position vacant.

A motion was made by Bill Maschewske and seconded by Milt Reeths to approve the agenda as written.

The motion carried unanimously with one member absent and one position vacant.

Public Comment – None

Business

Bill Maschewske inquired if the one open issue from the last meeting regarding whether Robinson Township had a contract with Olive Township regarding municipal water had been answered. Supervisor Kuck is to check on this and report at the next meeting.

Milt Reeths – Was the Township Master Water Plan approved by the Township Board?

Supervisor Kuck – Yes.

Supervisor Kuck stated she would get copies of the approved Master Water Plan for Milt Reeths and Kurt Koella.

(Items numbered to follow agenda numbering by subject)

1. Density Standards for PUD Development.

Following discussion and inquiries, it was noted this issue was more specifically whether Robinson Township should consider a moratorium or Zoning Ordinance amendment requiring new residential developments to be serviced by public water. The current status of both the shallow and deep aquifers was reviewed along with the Ottawa County Health Dept. denial of the Evergreen Site Condominium residential project. The County is very concerned that the deep or glacial aquifer is being depleted because the recharge rate is less than the consumption rate.

The recently acquired map of glacial aquifer recharge areas in Ottawa County was distributed. It was noted these areas should remain as undeveloped as possible to promote minimum runoff and maximum absorption and recharge to the glacial aquifer. After lengthy discussion, the consensus was that only residential developments that would access the glacial aquifer were of concern regarding water supply. It was noted by Supervisor Kuck that the County is looking at relaxing requirements for shallow wells to help minimize the need for residences to access the deep aquifer.

3. Discuss Ordinance for Water Hookup

Supervisor Kuck explained that at least one instance has occurred where a new residence was built with public water available. The homeowner noted that it was approximately \$10,000 to connect to public water and only \$3000 to put down a shallow well, therefore, the shallow well option was exercised. The Township Board is of the opinion that there currently exists no mandate that new residential construction be required to connect to municipal water if it is available.

Bill Maschewske – Requested a copy of the Township Water Ordinance for review. Supervisor Kuck will provide copies.

A discussion followed regarding the requirement for connection to municipal water when available. It was noted that when public water ran past a large parcel, the costs could be devastating to the landowner if required to connect. However, if there were no existing well and a new dwelling were being constructed on a residential size parcel and if the dwelling were less than 200 ft. from the road, connection perhaps should be required. It was noted that some people do not like the taste of municipal water and therefore prefer a well connection. The consensus was that the current Water Ordinance would need to be obtained and reviewed and revisions would be recommended at a later meeting if necessary.

Supervisor Kuck also updated the Water Board on the latest status of PFAS investigations in Robinson Township. The contamination issue at Robinson School was resolved with a whole facility filtering system. The latest word from EGLE is that the contamination in Robinson Township occurred from septic systems. Since the entire

population of Robinson Township is on septic systems but the PFAS contamination is isolated, this statement was not completely understood by the Water Board.

2. Municipal Water Update

For information only, Supervisor Kuck reported that a meeting had been held on October 19, 2019 with Grand Haven Charter Township and the Ottawa County Road Commission regarding municipal water. There appeared to be discrepancies between what Robinson Township is being charged compared to receipts of what has been paid. Additionally, there is disagreement regarding whether the maximum contracted usage by Robinson Township is being exceeded. In the third quarter of each year, the usage by Robinson exceeds the maximum rate allowed due to sprinkling use. On an annual basis, however, Robinson Township usage is well below the maximum.

4. Any and All Other Business That May Come Before the Board

Bill Maschewske noted that the Planning Commission is looking for a Master Water Plan from the Water Board that would target and prioritize future water line construction. The various areas of the Township with public water were reviewed along with areas with known water issues. Given that the residents of the areas with water issues have been opposed to municipal water, it is felt that the existing Water Master Plan, which only shows how water would get to specific areas of the Township if needed and the appropriate size lines, is adequate and that perhaps the Master Land Use Plan should drive priorities in the Master Water Plan.

Action Items

1. Determine new shallow well requirements – Supervisor Kuck.
2. Determine if a water access contract exists with Olive Township – Supervisor Kuck.
3. Approved copies of the Robinson Township Master Water Plan for Milt Reeths and Kurt Koella – Supervisor Kuck.
4. Obtain and distribute copies of the Township Water Ordinance for all Water Board members – Supervisor Kuck.
5. Review Township Water Ordinance when available – All Water Board members.
6. Review requirements for municipal water for residential developments – All Water Board members.

A motion was made by Bill Maschewske and seconded by Milt Reeths to adjourn the Water Board at 7:37 PM.

The motion carried unanimously with one member absent and one position vacant.

Bill Maschewske, Secretary
Robinson Township Water Board