

Charter Township of Canton Board Proceedings-October 18, 2011

A regular study meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton held Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at 1150 Canton Center S., Canton, Michigan. Supervisor LaJoy called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. **Roll Call** Members Present: Anthony, Bennett, Demopoulos, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Taj, Williams Staff Present: Director Bilbrey-Honsowetz, Director Eva, Director Faas, Director Nemecek, Audrey Robinson, Bob Belair, Bill Serchak Guest Present: Vyto Kaunelis, OHM Advisor **Adoption of Agenda** Motion by Bennett, seconded by McLaughlin to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. **STUDY SESSION TOPIC Item 1. Management of Peak Water Usage** Director Faas stated Canton has implemented a Voluntary Water Use Restrictions for approximately 6 years. There has been some success. The Voluntary Water Use Restrictions ask residents and businesses to observe odd/even restrictions and also to encourage watering during those non-peak demand periods (i.e. do not water early in the mornings or late in the afternoons). These restrictions are purely voluntary. The program is targeted through public education. Outdoor water use does play a significant role in determining Canton's water rate from DWSD. Three components make up the water rates each year DWSD charges Canton. One is the distance from the treatment plants, second is the elevation of the community to the treatment plants and third is how Canton uses the water. The third component is what will be focused on. The first and second components are very difficult to change. The topic this evening will include the volume of water that Canton uses and when Canton uses the water. There were new water contracts that were signed a couple of years ago with DWSD that provide incentives to the customers for water use outside the high usage time frames (6am-9am). The incentive is that DWSD does not measure contracts that are exceeded during these exclusionary periods. Canton will not be held to the contract limits during those times. This is passed on by a lower cost for water during non-peak hours and also a savings in energy cost to the customer. Without storage, a DWSD customer/community can only affect usage by its customers through voluntary or mandatory use restrictions. Canton's policy has always been voluntary. The new water contract signed with DWSD in 2008 had two terms. The first term was July 2008-June 2010. Second term was July 2010-June 2013. Canton will be negotiating this time next year for the contract that will take effect in July 2013. Canton will need to get a handle on its peak usage before that period. OHM's proposal to Canton was to evaluate the implementation of a mandatory use restriction ordinance (as Novi and Troy) first, before evaluating storage options. The evaluation that OHM performed was relatively inexpensive, a potential to avoid major capital investment of storage. Based on Canton's past success with the voluntary restriction, Canton should have a high potential for success if it did implement mandatory restrictions as both Novi and Troy has done. The presentation summarized the June 10, 2011 report on the potential effects of a Water Demand Management Program. In order to institute a successful demand management program, a mandatory water use ordinance will need to be enacted. Details of the ordinance were discussed along with the educational efforts that will be involved with Canton's water customers. Canton Township is in the process of exploring options to reduce their water rates. The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department's (DWSD's) water rates are highly dependant on a community's maximum day and peak hour water usage. This peak usage is generally driven by irrigation and usually occurs in summer months when it is hot and dry for extended periods. The Township is considering several alternatives to reduce their peak usage including construction of storage within the Township and managing peak water usage. Several other DWSD communities have had success in reducing their peak usage by implementing aggressive demand management programs, which could include public education, ordinances and marketing campaigns. Canton Township has asked Orchard, Hiltz, and McCliment to assist them in exploring the potential for the Township to reduce their water rates through a more aggressive demand management program. **Other** George Miller, 1946 Briarfield, inquired why Canton is not on a well system with its irrigation. Mr. Miller inquired if an ordinance for noise could be passed for the "boom box" issues. Mr. Miller stated he would like the cat tails at Morton Taylor and Palmer and some other areas along Palmer Road cut down. **Adjourn** Motion by Williams supported by Anthony at 8:15 p.m. to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. – Philip LaJoy, Supervisor – Terry G. Bennett, Clerk –

Copies of the complete text of the Board Minutes are available at the office of the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd, Canton, MI 48188, during regular business hours and can also be accessed through our web site www.canton-mi.org after Board Approval.

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