



June 23, 2022

MISCELLANEOUS RESOLUTION #22-140

Sponsored By: Chuck Moss, Michael Spisz, Michael Gingell, Robert Hoffman, Karen Joliat, Eileen Kowall, Christine Long, Philip Weipert, Adam Kochenderfer, Thomas Kuhn

Board of Commissioners - Resolution Opposing the Imposition of Highland Park's Water and Sewer Debt on Oakland County Communities

Chairperson and Members of the Board:

WHEREAS the Oakland County Board of Commissioners seeks to ensure Oakland County residents and businesses provided municipal water and sewer services are charged rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and consistent with their usage of those services; and

WHEREAS Oakland County communities receive water services from the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) and all Oakland County communities are paying members in good standing with GLWA; and

WHEREAS the State of Michigan has a direct role in GLWA providing water services to the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS the State of Michigan requested then Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), now GLWA, to provide emergency water services to the City of Highland Park because the State of Michigan determined Highland Park's water treatment plant was creating a public health risk to its residents; and

WHEREAS on November 12, 2012, the State of Michigan stated the repairs to the water treatment plant were to be completed in 3-4 days; but neither the State of Michigan or the City of Highland Park repaired the water treatment plant, and it remains shuttered to this day; and

WHEREAS the City of Highland Park has paid less than 1% of their water services charges since 2012; and

WHEREAS since 2012, the City of Highland Park has accumulated \$54,233,700 in debt to GLWA for both water and sewer services. Should their payment pattern continue, this debt will rise to \$60,977,600 by the end of FY 2023; and

WHEREAS the City of Highland Park's debt has now been allocated by the GLWA to the GLWA subsidiary authority member communities, including Oakland County; and

WHEREAS when Highland Park does not pay, the costs are borne by the other member partner communities receiving GLWA's sewer services. By the end of the current fiscal year, Highland Park's sewer services arrearages will exceed \$42,859,400 if no payments are made. If this pattern continues, the arrearages will exceed \$48,346,000 by the end of FY 2023; and

WHEREAS the City of Highland Park's continued non-payment of charges and accumulated arrearages will force Oakland County and its communities to pay respective charges, of significant funds that these communities need for services and investment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners hereby requests the State of Michigan and the Great Lakes Water Authority do not require Oakland County and the 86 other

paying member communities to pay for the City of Highland Park's debt to GLWA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners hereby requests the State of Michigan become directly involved in resolving this dispute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners calls on the State of Michigan to create a system in which debts of non-paying water and sewer customers can no longer be charged to paying customers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Board of Commissioners expresses its support to Oakland County communities in their efforts to resolve this situation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Oakland County Clerk is requested to forward a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Michigan, the Oakland County delegation to the State Legislature, the Chairman of the Great Lakes Water Authority Board of Directors, the Executive Director of the Great Lakes Water Authority, the Chairman of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, the Chairman of the Wayne County Commission, the Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner, and all Oakland County communities serviced by the Great Lakes Water Authority.

Chairperson, the following Commissioners are sponsoring the foregoing Resolution: **Chuck Moss, Michael Spisz, Michael Gingell, Robert Hoffman, Karen Joliat, Eileen Kowall, Christine Long, Philip Weipert, Adam Kochenderfer, Thomas Kuhn.**



David Woodward, Commissioner

Date: June 27, 2022



Lisa Brown, County Clerk / Register of Deeds

Date: June 27, 2022

COMMITTEE TRACKING

- 2022-04-14 Full Board - Refer to Economic Development & Infrastructure Committee
- 2022-05-18 Economic Development & Infrastructure - Postponed to 2022-06-15 EDI Meeting
- 2022-06-15 Economic Development & Infrastructure - Recommend as amended to Board
- 2022-06-23 Full Board

VOTE TRACKING

Motioned by Commissioner Chuck Moss seconded by Commissioner William Miller III to adopt the attached Resolution: Opposing the Imposition of Highland Park's Water and Sewer Debt on Oakland County Communities.

Yes: David Woodward, Michael Gingell, Karen Joliat, Kristen Nelson, Eileen Kowall, Christine Long, Philip Weipert, Gwen Markham, Angela Powell, Thomas Kuhn, Chuck Moss, Marcia Gershenson, William Miller III, Yolanda Smith Charles, Penny Luebs, Gary McGillivray, Robert Hoffman, Adam Kochenderfer
(18)

No: Charles Cavell, Janet Jackson (2)

Abstain: None (0)

Absent: (0)

Passed

ATTACHMENTS

None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, Lisa Brown, Clerk of the County of Oakland, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the Oakland County Board of Commissioners on June 23, 2022, with the original record thereof now remaining in my office.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Circuit Court at Pontiac, Michigan on Thursday, June 23, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Brown, Oakland County Clerk / Register of Deeds