

PUBLIC MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2004
DIETRICH GRANGE HALL

A public meeting was held on August 19, 2004 at the Dietrich Grange Hall to discuss the changes to be implement for water usage.

Mayor Knowles opened the meeting and councilmen, Wanless Southwick and Don Heiken were present. Also attending the meeting was the following community members: Pat Voloshen, Miriam Depew, Roger Stoddard, Buck Upshaw, Ron Burk, Ruby McCowan, Sid and Carolyn Edwards, Tracy and Traci Perron, Brad Dotson, Dan McBride, Walt and Carole Evans and Jaide Evans & Jeanetta R. Knowles.

Mayor Knowles turned the meeting over to W. Southwick and he discussed the events of the last city council meeting. The in put from the community at the last meeting was to raise the base rate to 17,000 gallons and charge \$30.00 per month with a \$.50 charge for every 1000 gallons over the 17,000 gallons.

In the beginning when the water system was installed DEQ and Rural Development insisted water meters be installed and read. Their line of reasoning was water charged over 8500 gallons would be a deterrent to people just turning on the hose and letting it run.

The city has been unable until now to read the meters on a regular basis due to the inability of the city to hire a person for the job. The city has now hired Tom Young and he has started to read the meters and fix the ones that are not working.

8500 gallons a month during the winter is a reasonable average. Amount flushed into the sewer appears to be what people are using per household.

The city council took into consideration the input from the community during the regular council meeting and in order to comply with the law needed to have a public hearing concerning water rate changes.

This public hearing would allow others who did not attend the meeting the opportunity to express their opinions.

Discussion of water rate commenced and went from having the base rate at 17,000 gallons at \$30.00 to 8500 gallons at \$22.00. Talked about people who did not use 8500 gallons being overcharged if base rate was \$30.00.

General consensus seemed to be a base rate of \$22.00 for 8500 gallons with a dollar per 1000 up to 17,000 gallons with a \$.50 per 1000 over 17,000.

Suggested that this idea be followed by a show of hands for who is and who isn't in favor of the change. Show of hands for was 8 and against was 2.

Asked to have put in the minutes that when the system is paid for the rate will be re-evaluated to see if costs can go down.

Discussed about another pump and the idea of a booster pump was suggested.

Meeting closed at 8:00 P.M.