

RESOLUTION NO. 16 -2008

Offered by All of Council

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE 2008 RATE INCREASE PROPOSED BY WATER & SEWER LLC; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, Water & Sewer LLC provides water and sewage disposal service to approximately 83 customers in the Village of Richfield and Richfield Township; and

WHEREAS, Water & Sewer LLC has filed a Notice of Intent with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio seeking to more than double its current rates and charges for water and sewer service to these customers; and

WHEREAS, Water & Sewer LLC claims the proposed new rates are due to matters beyond its control, including that current rates are based on 2001 costs no longer reflecting actual costs; that substantial capital investments have been required to maintain and upgrade facilities; and that greatly reduced water usage has resulted from Water & Sewer LLC's cost rate increase in 2004, which has generated significantly less revenue for Water & Sewer LLC; and

WHEREAS, this Council believes that Water & Sewer LLC's proposed new rates are unreasonable and arbitrary, and will be an unjustified burden to customers who are already reducing water usage due to the high current rates;

WHEREAS, this Council believes that Water & Sewer LLC's proposed new rates are not in the best interest of the Village's residents and the public health, safety and welfare and, for these reasons, this Council opposes the proposed rate increase.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Richfield, Summit County, State of Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. The Village of Richfield is opposed to the 2008 rate increase proposed by Water and Sewer LLC finding the proposed new rates to be unreasonable and arbitrary, an unjustified burden to customers, and adverse to the public interest.

SECTION 2. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to serve a certified copy of this Resolution upon the members of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

SECTION 3. This Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare and for the further reason it is immediately necessary that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio be advised of the Village's opposition to the rate increased proposed by Water & Sewer LLC at the earliest possible time; wherefore, provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of Council elected or appointed, it shall take effect immediately upon its passage and execution by the Mayor;

otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: 3-18-08



President of Council



Mayor

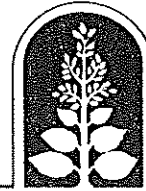
Dated: 3/18/08

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council

VILLAGE OF RICHFIELD
Crossroads of Community and Commerce



March 26, 2008

PUCO
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Re: Notice of Intent of Water and Sewer LLC
PUCO Case No. 08-227-WS-AIR

Utilities Committee Member:

Recently Water & Sewer, LLC submitted the above identified petition for rate increases in the water and sewer rates for the Briarwood Development in Richfield OH.

Richfield Village Council and Mayor have been looking into this situation for some time. At the March 18, 2008 Council meeting, a resolution opposing these increases was passed as emergency legislation (a copy of this resolution is enclosed.) Opposition is due to the extraordinarily high rates already imposed on this neighborhood and that there is a less costly and improved service available to the residents if Water & Sewer, LLC would turn over the lines already installed (the company has stated that they do not want to be in the business and are open to another source.)

Please consider the Village's opposition when deciding this petition and the availability of the alternative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Sullivan".

Carolyn Sullivan
Clerk of Council
Enc.: Resolution 16-2008