

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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Township Supervisor

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Waterford Township Approves Settlement in Water/Sewer Bill Lawsuit**

**May 23, 2017 - For Immediate Release**

**Waterford, MI** - At its meeting May 22, 2017, the Waterford Township Board of Trustees approved a class action settlement agreement for \$1.4 million for the case of Mason v Charter Township of Waterford, Oakland County Circuit Court (Case No. 2016-152441-CZ; Hon. Nanci Grant.)

The complaint and amended complaint in the case filed in April 2016 by the law firm Kickham Hanley, PLLC, allege that the Township's water and sewer rates were excessive under several theories and request that the court order the Township to refund the amounts found to be excessive for the period of April 2010 through the present.

Although the Township denied the claims and filed a motion seeking dismissal of many of them, the Board approved the settlement agreement without acknowledging any liability after hearing confidential analysis and opinions from the Township Attorney. Among several factors considered in this decision, expenses incurred in continuing to defend the case, and the amount plaintiff's attorneys were expected to request at trial were substantially larger than the settlement amount.

Under the settlement agreement, which must first receive preliminary approval from the Court, the Township will provide a settlement fund of \$1.4 million to be administered by Kickham Hanley as a Claims -Escrow Administrator.

What remains after payment of class representative, attorney fees and expenses, and administrative expenses is to be distributed to members of a class consisting of people or entities that paid water and/or sewer bills to the Township between April 11, 2010 and May 31, 2017. The distributions will be by cash payments or credits against future payments on accounts for which payments were made during that period.

If the settlement agreement receives preliminary approval from the Court, notices are to be mailed to all service addresses and published twice in the Oakland Press and once in the Detroit News. Those notices will describe the procedure for submitting claims and for objecting or option out of the settlement.

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