



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: July 9, 2013

TO: Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: Veto of County Board File No. 13-566 to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for the transfer of seven Milwaukee County water utility customers and the West Water Tower to Wauwatosa

I am vetoing County Board File No. 13-566 pursuant to the authority granted to me by Article IV, Section 23(a) of the Wisconsin Constitution and Section 59.17(6) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The County Board adopted a resolution on June 20, 2013 with the intent of entering into an amended Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), unacceptable to Wauwatosa, for the transfer of seven Milwaukee County water utility customers and the West Water Tower to Wauwatosa.

The original MOU submitted to the Board was the result of months of work by professional and dedicated Milwaukee County staff, the City of Wauwatosa and other stakeholders. In a matter of a few minutes and without consultation with the Administration, the County Board –with the notable exceptions of Supervisors Mayo, Schmitt, Borkowski, Alexander and Jursik, who supported this project– amended the agreement despite their foreknowledge that the amended terms were unacceptable to Wauwatosa. The Department of Administrative Services (DAS) staff worked diligently over several months to explain this deal and the risks of amending it. DAS staff sent multiple reports and met one-on-one with Supervisors. As expected, the City of Wauwatosa has since informed us that they will not accept the new terms.

If this veto is not sustained, the County Board will cost taxpayers \$250,000 in revenue. This decision by the Board would ultimately put the County's Water Utility customers at risk for more than \$3 million in extra costs. In the longer term, the County will be on the hook for significant costs to invest in the water business without infrastructure or service benefits for our customers or the community.

Further, If Milwaukee County is forced to build a new pipeline, there will be additional, significant consequences:

1. According to design plans by Graef, the new pipeline will have to go directly through the protected butterfly zone. Construction crews will be digging 15-25 foot trenches to place the pipes through portions of the area. I have attached a map that demonstrates this.
2. The construction will begin this summer and likely disrupt water service to the Urban Gardens and Wil-O-Way, potentially during Wil-O-Way Summer Day Camp which provides respite and recreation to 65 campers and their care providers. There are also more than 35 community events scheduled through December for 4,000 attendees. These activities are likely to be cancelled due to lack of

access to water. Additionally the Family Care unit housed at the Underwood Center encompassing approximately 15 staff members would need to be relocated to other Milwaukee County locations.

I ask that Supervisors sustain my veto and then pass the original Memorandum of Understanding so we can move forward on this agreement that is in both the County's and our partners' interest.