

-COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE-
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: March 28, 2014

TO: Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Julie Esch, Director of Operations
Department of Administrative Services

**SUBJECT: Public Policy Forum Report – Milwaukee County Water Utility:
Analyzing the issues surrounding a potential transfer in
ownership to the City of Wauwatosa-For Information Only**

BACKGROUND

In the fall of 2012, the Milwaukee County (County) and the City of Wauwatosa (City) met to discuss the possibility of transferring the County Utility to the City. Representatives of the County and City agreed to engage the Public Policy Forum (PPF) in a professional services agreement for the analysis of the pros and cons of transferring the County Utility to the City. The County and City agreed to share equally in the \$20,000 cost of the contract.

Originally, the County and City requested that the PPF provide an analysis of the entire water system. However, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) deadlines for submission of plans and specifications related to the reconstruction of Swan Boulevard and Watertown Plank Road forced the PPF, with the permission of the County and City, to analyze those parts of the water system directly impacted by the Swan Boulevard and Watertown Plank Road mitigation projects immediately. The remainder of the County water utility was analyzed separately in order for the County to meet WisDOT deadlines.

Based on Phase I analysis, the PPF recommended that transfer of the seven County water utility customers and west water tower to the City should occur as it would be mutually beneficial to both parties. Thereafter, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, at its July 10, 2013 meeting, adopted resolution (File No. 13-566) approving a memorandum of agreement between the County and the City for the transfer of the seven water utility customers and west water tower to the City. The Phase II report by the PPF addresses the remaining customers and system infrastructure.

REQUEST

The Department of Administrative Services is requesting that the Public Policy Forum present its recent report entitled, "Milwaukee County Water Utility: Analyzing issues surrounding a potential transfer in ownership to the City of Wauwatosa," to the Finance, Audit and Personnel Committee at its April 17, 2014 meeting.



Julie Esch, Director of Operations
Department of Administrative Services