



VILLAGE OF WESTON, MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-044

**A RESOLUTION TO PURSUE LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT ALLOWING CREDIT CARD FEES TO BE ADDED TO UTILITY PAYMENTS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Weston owns and operates a water enterprise for the health and welfare of its citizens, operating under the umbrella known as Weston Municipal Utilities (the Utility); and

**WHEREAS**, the Utility is subject to regulation under rules set forth by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC); and

**WHEREAS**, the PSC of Wisconsin is authorized under §196 Stats and specifically §196.37 Stats., to "...determine and order reasonable rates, tolls, charges, schedules ... to be imposed, observed and followed..." for Wisconsin water utilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the PSC in accordance with Chapter PSC 185.15 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, does not permit a utility to provide water service to any customer at a rate different than provided for in its rates approved by PSC; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with §196.60, Stats. "No public utility ... directly or indirectly, may charge, demand, collect or receive from any person more or less compensation for any service rendered or to be rendered by it in or affecting or relating to the production, transmission, delivery or furnishing of heat, light, water, or power or for any service in connection therewith, than that prescribed in the published schedules or tariffs then in force, or established under this chapter, or than it charges, demands, collects or receives from any other person for a like contemporaneous service;" and

**WHEREAS**, said statute and administrative code provision prohibit the Utility from adding fees for credit card payments to customer payments for water utility service as well as prohibiting the Utility from paying credit card fees as an operating expense; and

**WHEREAS**, collection of customer water service payments by credit card would be beneficial as a matter of convenience for customers and would likely reduce delinquencies and the need for the Utility to disconnect service for delinquent customers, as well as reductions in other administrative costs through reductions of in-person payments.

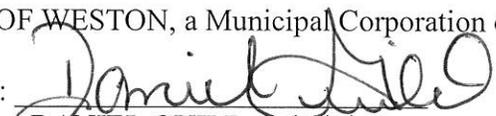
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees for the Village of Weston hereby authorizes pursuing legislative support to effect changes to §196 Stats. and PSC 185 allowing utilities to add fees charged by credit card companies to the fees for water service when customers pay for said service by credit card; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Village staff is encouraged to solicit the support of other utilities and organizations representing utilities in pursuit of this objective including Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin and Municipal Environmental Group – Water.

**PASSED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WESTON**, at a regular meeting thereof, this 30 day of the month of NOV, 2015.

VILLAGE OF WESTON, a Municipal Corporation of the State of Wisconsin.

Proposed by:

  
DANIEL GUILD, Administrator

By:

  
BARBARA ERMELING, Village President

ATTEST:

By:

  
SHERRY WEINKAUF, Village Clerk

Vote:

7-0