

**VILLAGE OF WESTON, WISCONSIN
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-010**

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

BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Trustee 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.

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 20th day of the month of February 2017.

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

By: 
BARBARA ERMELING, President

ATTEST:
By: 
DANIEL GUILD, Administrator

FILED:
By: 
SHERRY WEINKAUF, Clerk

**VILLAGE OF WESTON, WISCONSIN
AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

MTG/DATE: Board of Trustees – 02/20/17

FROM: Keith Donner, Director of Public Works

DESCRIPTION: Resolution No. 2017-010: A Resolution to pursue legislative support allowing credit card fees to be added to utility payments.

ACTION:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve	<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/> Proclamation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deny	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Procedure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution

QUESTION:
Should the Board of Trustees approve Resolution No. 2017-010 and direct staff to forward it on to the appropriate state and federal agencies.

BRIEF:
This is a resolution requesting permission for staff to pursue legislative support to get the law changed to allow credit card fees to legally be added to utility payments if the customer chooses to use that form of payment.

FISCAL IMPACT: TBD

RECOMMEND: Director recommends approval.

COMMITTEE:

REQUEST: Approve Resolution #2017-010 under Consent

Is there an additional briefer with this agenda item?

Are there additional reference documents which have been attached to this report?