

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF WASHTENAW
AUGUSTA CHARTER TOWNSHIP

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WATER RESOURCES
COMMISSIONER TO EXCEED THE STATUORY SPENDING
AND ASSESSMENT LIMIT OF FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00)
DOLLARS PER MILE FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND
REPAIR OF THE AUGUSTA CENTRAL DRAIN

RESOLUTION 18-04

WHEREAS, the Augusta Central is a drain located in the municipality of Augusta Charter Township, which drains were constructed in accordance with the Drain Code of 1956; and

WHEREAS, the Water Resources Commissioner is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring proper maintenance and repairs are made to said drains; and

WHEREAS, the Water Resources Commissioner, pursuant to statute, has inspected the Augusta Central drain which inspection revealed that repair work is necessary in as much as said inspection identified sediment and tree removal and clean culvert under Whittaker Road; and

WHEREAS, the Water Resources Commissioner of Washtenaw County has estimated that the repair of the Augusta Central drain will be approximately forty-two thousand nine hundred forty-one (\$42,941.00) dollars; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Drain Code of 1956, the Water Resources Commissioner cannot exceed the statutory spending limit of five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars per mile for the maintenance and repair of the drains unless approved by a resolution of the Township Board; and

WHEREAS, the Water Resources Commissioner has requested the Township Board to pass such resolution authorizing the office of the Water Resources Commissioner to exceed the statutory spending limit allowed on the Augusta Central Drain, to wit: five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars per mile, so as to allow repair of said drain.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Augusta Township Board of Trustees for the municipality of Augusta Township hereby approve the estimates as written above for the repair and maintenance to the Augusta Central Drain;

Motion to approve Resolution was offered by Domas and seconded by Ortiz.

Roll Call: Aye: Burek, Chie, Domas, Howard, Ortiz, Shelby. Nays: 0 Absent: Knick

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

Brian Shelby 4/12/18
Brian Shelby, Augusta Charter Township Supervisor

CERTIFICATE

I, Belynda Domas, the elected and acting Clerk of Augusta Charter Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Township Board, as presented at a meeting on April 9, 2018 at which meeting a quorum was present by a roll call vote of said members as herein set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

Belynda Domas 4/12/18
Belynda Domas, Augusta Charter Township Clerk



EVAN N. PRATT, P.E.

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER

705 North Zeeb Road

P.O. Box 8645

Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645

email: drains@ewashtenaw.org

<http://drain.ewashtenaw.org>

MUGHAN BONFIGLIO
Chief Deputy Water Resources
Commissioner

Telephone 734.222.6860

Fax 734.222.6803

December 11, 2017

Brian Shelby, Supervisor
Augusta Township

Re: Augusta Township 2018 drainage system budget recommendations
cc: Township Board, Deputy Supervisor

Dear Mr. Shelby,

We have appreciated working together with the Township to identify areas where service is needed and where residents have contacted our respective offices directly. We know it is often confusing for people to figure out whom to call. As we have discussed previously, this office has been making efforts within the budget to improve the poor condition of the open drains in the Township, rather than just responding to service calls that are often the result of our limited legal ability to expend funds without Township concurrence.

We are limited to just under \$1 per linear foot of drain annually (\$5,000 per mile), which is not enough to remove even a minor amount of sedimentation or to remove woody vegetation (such as dead ash trees) that obstruct or impede flow (which also facilitates sedimentation). As you can see from the attached image, there are a dozens of County Drains in the Township, totaling some 88 of the 295 miles of open drains in the County. While we cannot address the high groundwater and other reasons for poor drainage, we would appreciate the opportunity to methodically continue renewing drains to their originally intended depths, as some have more than 3.5' of sediment while others have a history of repeated service calls. In other parts of the County, this type of approach has dramatically reduced service calls by eliminating sediment and debris in or near the drain, and allowing a drain to move into our low-cost mowing program. As we have discussed, we are required by law to notify property owners who have a drain on their property if there would be any sediment or tree removal, at least a week in advance. We normally do this by first class mail or door hangers.

Because it has become evident in the past few years that new problems crop up faster than we are legally able to return drains to their original condition, we would like to propose that the Board consider this letter as the first step in a proposed annual process where we work with you to identify and recommended improvements, and adjust those based on what you all at the Township are hearing from residents. Our goal is to work together to continue to reduce reactive maintenance that generally is the least cost effective and can only deal with symptoms such as a downed tree or brush in a drain.

Therefore, we propose to deal with the root cause of the problem through the most cost-efficient means, by clearing the easement on at least one side of the drains noted herein, and removing sediment to facilitate flow. This has been very effective for the drains highlighted in green on the attached map, and for other communities.

To that end, the attached map also shows the County Drains that we have discussed and recommend for clearing and cleaning to eliminate service calls. By increasing the mileage we clean out in the short term, we can obtain lower unit prices than we have been able to obtain for past projects (green highlight) as noted in the bottom right of this map.

We are writing today to formally request Board action to authorize us to exceed the ~\$1 per foot limit (\$5,000 per mile), and below summarize the proposed total Township budget for 2018, broken down into typical costs for the primary maintenance activity we normally perform and two "special projects" that would cost slightly more than the legal \$5,000 per mile. Please let us know if you would like another copy of the Resolutions we have provided regarding the "Drain clean-out" line items for the Maybee and Augusta Central drains.

1. Annual Mowing program (32 drains, totaling 26 miles)	\$10,000
2. Annual service calls (estimated reactive maintenance)	\$ 9,000
3. Other preventative maintenance	\$ 6,000
4. Wolff Drain clean out (within legal limit)	\$ 1,200
5. North County Line Intercounty (addressing a long term issue)	\$ 1,300
6. Augusta Central Drain clean out (need Resolution)	\$12,900
7. Maybee Drain, Phase II (need Resolution)	<u>\$11,550</u>

Total Budget Recommendation	\$51,950
------------------------------------	-----------------

As you may envision, the weather is a primary driver of items 2 and 3, and these items are most subject to cost variation based on actual. The other items are intended as not to exceed amounts. We would propose to address any variations in amounts for items 2 and 3 through adjusting the mowing program if needed – as you know, we do not start this activity until at least May, sometimes June in the Township. Noting that our

maintenance budget cycle is from July 1 to June 30, with assessments the following December, this allows us to work within your budget cycle and these amounts.

And while the budget amount is roughly double of the historic average assessment charges to the Township, but as noted above, the drain clean-out and mowing are proactive ways to treat the problem, versus the band-aid that it normally all that is legally fundable in addressing service calls. Additionally, due to better production rates of items 4-7, for roughly double the Township re-investment this year, we are able to provide about four (4) times the mileage of drains. And these renewed drains will then have greatly reduced maintenance costs, generally just mowing.

The consequences of not performing recommended maintenance are a continuation of problems you see and hear about throughout the Township for at least the past 20-30 years at least. There is additional risk of flooding along with continued standing water for longer periods of time, and the resident concerns such as mosquitos, loss of land use, impact to agriculture, etc.

Should you approve this initial pilot program, we would anticipate working with you next budget cycle to provide a 4-year program proposal that would start showing a noticeable change in several parts of the Township in four ways. First, property being usable for more days of the year, secondly a reduction in depth and frequency of standing water in those drains where maintenance is performed, and third as noted above our drain clean out work will eliminate the need for service calls in those areas, reducing the Township's risk of extensive service. Fourth and finally, we would also anticipate a modest but noticeable improvement in property values over a 5-year timeframe of maintenance improvement (versus band-aids) as with any infrastructure that is visibly kept in good working order. It is a point of fact that the land was undevelopable before the drainage systems were put in place, with many of our oldest drains being in the Township to facilitate the original settlement.

As you and the Board can imagine, these programmed expenditures would be subject to unusual weather such as heavy rains. As part of this arrangement, we would propose to check in with the Township on the actual expenditures for items 1-5 before proceeding with items 6 & 7, again considering the flexibility of timing afforded by our differing budget cycles to stay within the total amount noted above.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide what would be a high value improvement to residents at a modest cost. As you are aware, property owners share in the costs of special assessment work, and we have reviewed mock assessment rolls to ensure that there is no undue burden placed on property owners. These appear to be reasonably affordable projects when the costs are shared. The average one-time property owner share for Augusta Central is would be \$185, and for Maybee it would be \$139. Actual costs are correlated to acreage owned. In other communities we have found that property owners appreciate that the Township is also sharing in the cost, and as you

may recall, the Road Commission will contribute a small share of the costs as well. Please note that the cost amounts on the attached map are total project estimates, with only the Township share noted above. The map also provides outlines of the drainage areas for the projects proposed for 2018, property owners within the black lines would be charged for a share of the work as usual. You will also see that we are no longer recommending the work estimated on the Auten and Vedder Drain without a resident petition, because there are only 7 property owners there we do not feel it is as affordable as the other projects.

Please let me know if you have any further questions or if you would like us to be present at a Board meeting to consider either the overall budget or the two resolutions required to perform items 6 and 7.

Sincerely,



Evan N. Pratt, P.E.

Water Resources Commissioner
Director of Public Works