



**COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE
TUESDAY – FEBRUARY 23, 2016 – 4:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM N-1 – FIFTH FLOOR
ROCK COUNTY COURTHOUSE-EAST**

Agenda

1. Call to Order & Approval of Agenda
2. Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements
3. Approval of Minutes – January 26, 2016 and February 9, 2016
4. Approval of Bills/Transfers/Pre-Approved Encumbrances
5. Resolutions
 - A. To Request the Department of Natural Resources and the State Legislature Include Rock County Under Wisconsin Administrative Code §.NR 45.09(5)
 - B. Opposition to Senate Bill 432 / Assembly Bill 554 Allowing for Privatization of Water Utility
 - C. To Recognize Stephen Drew
6. Discussion and Possible Action on Establishing the Salary for Rock County Clerk, Register of Deeds, and Treasurer for the 2017-2020 Term
7. Discussion on Compensation Study
8. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Per Section 19.85(1)(g), Wis. Stats. – Confer with Legal Counsel Regarding Pending Litigation
9. Adjournment

Account Number	Account Name	PO#	Inv Date	Vendor Name	Inv/Enc Amt
01-1320-0000-63200	PUBL/SUBCR/DUES	P1601006	02/02/2016	NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DRUG C	60.00
	Budget	YTD Exp	YTD Enc	Pending	Closing Balance
	2,803.00	2,196.54	0.00	60.00	546.46
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR PROG TOTAL				60.00	

I have examined the preceding bills and encumbrances in the total amount of **\$60.00**

Claims covering the items are proper and have been previously funded. These items are to be treated as follows:

- A. Bills and encumbrances over \$10,000 referred to the Finance Committee and County Board.
- B. Bills under \$10,000 to be paid.
- C. Encumbrances under \$10,000 to be paid upon acceptance by the Department Head.

Date: **FEB 23 2016**

Dept Head _____

Committee Chair _____

Account Number	Account Name	PO#	Inv Date	Vendor Name	Inv/Enc Amt
08-1420-0000-63107	PUBL & LEGAL	P1600185	02/05/2016	BELOIT DAILY NEWS	188.40
		P1600186	01/31/2016	JANESVILLE GAZETTE INC	153.00
		P1600188	02/01/2016	WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTIC	101.00
		Budget		YTD Exp	YTD Enc
	25,000.00	200.00	175.00	442.40	24,182.60
08-1420-0000-64417	RH EXPENSES	P1600185	02/05/2016	BELOIT DAILY NEWS	214.55
		P1600186	01/31/2016	JANESVILLE GAZETTE INC	27.00
		P1600188	02/01/2016	WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTIC	70.00
		Budget		YTD Exp	YTD Enc
	8,500.00	750.25	(0.01)	311.55	7,438.21
HUMAN RESOURCES PROG TOTAL				753.95	

I have examined the preceding bills and encumbrances in the total amount of **\$753.95**
 Claims covering the items are proper and have been previously funded. These items are to be treated as follows:
 A. Bills and encumbrances over \$10,000 referred to the Finance Committee and County Board.
 B. Bills under \$10,000 to be paid.
 C. Encumbrances under \$10,000 to be paid upon acceptance by the Department Head.

Date: **FEB 23 2016**

Dept. Head _____

Committee Chair _____

Account Number	Account Name	PO#	Inv Date	Vendor Name	Inv/Enc Amt
19-1915-0000-64904 ENC	SUNDRY EXPENSE	R1601162	02/08/2016	MIDLAND HEALTH TESTING SERVICE	100,000.00
	Budget	YTD Exp	YTD Enc	Pending	Closing Balance
	200,000.00	54.83	0.00	100,000.00	99,945.17
HEALTH INSURANCE PROG TOTAL					100,000.00
19-1932-0000-64904	SUNDRY EXPENSE	P1600013	02/05/2016	JP MORGAN CHASE BANK NA	70.85
	Budget	YTD Exp	YTD Enc	Pending	Closing Balance
	6,200.00	0.00	429.15	70.85	5,700.00
EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION ACTIVITY PROG TOTAL					70.85

I have examined the preceding bills and encumbrances in the total amount of **\$100,070.85**
 Claims covering the items are proper and have been previously funded. These items are to be treated as follows:
 A. Bills and encumbrances over \$10,000 referred to the Finance Committee and County Board.
 B. Bills under \$10,000 to be paid.
 C. Encumbrances under \$10,000 to be paid upon acceptance by the Department Head.

Date: **FEB 23 2016**

Dept Head _____

Committee Chair _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

AGENDA NO. _____

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

SUPERVISOR BRIAN
KNUDSON
INITIATED BY



JEFFREY S. KUGLITSCH
DRAFTED BY

DECEMBER 30, 2015
DATE DRAFTED

COUNTY BOARD STAFF
COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED BY

TO REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE STATE
LEGISLATURE INCLUDE ROCK COUNTY UNDER WISCONSIN
ADMINISTRATIVE CODE § NR 45.09(5)

1 WHEREAS, there have been complaints of automatic gunfire occurring on the state lands in the
2 Town of Avon; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office is unable to act because the shootings occur on state land where
5 they have no jurisdiction; and

6
7 WHEREAS, there are concerns about personal safety of nearby residents; and

8
9 WHEREAS, the DNR wardens are also limited in what they can enforce; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Wisconsin Administrative Code § NR 45.09(5) states:

12
13 “(5) No person may possess any loaded or uncased firearm or air gun while within the
14 exterior boundary of state-owned lands posted with department signs in Dane, Dodge,
15 Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Outagamie,
16 Ozaukee, Racine, Sauk, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago
17 counties or on state forest lands in the Kettle Moraine or Point Beach state forests, state
18 recreation areas, state natural areas or on state trails established on railroad grades, except
19 as follows:

20 (a) While engaged in hunting in accordance with the open seasons established in
21 s. NR 10.01 on the portions of properties where hunting is authorized.

22 (b) At target ranges designated by the department.

23 (c) While engaged in dog trials under department permit.

24 (d) While training dogs in designated areas under department permit.

25 (e) When paintball guns are approved pursuant to s. NR 45.04 (3) (u);”

26 and

27
28 WHEREAS, if Rock County were included in § NR 45.09(5), the indiscriminate shooting
29 occurring in Avon Township would not be allowed on state lands.

30
31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Rock County Board of Supervisors in session
32 this ____ day of January, 2016 that they request the Department of Natural Resources and the Wisconsin
33 State Legislature take steps to add Rock County to the list of counties included under Administrative
34 Code § NR 45.09(5).

35
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution be provided to all Rock County State
37 Legislators, Governor Walker and Secretary of Natural Resources, Cathy L. Stepp.

Respectfully submitted:

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

J. Russell Podzilni, Chair

Sandra Kraft, Vice Chair

Eva Arnold

Henry Brill

Betty Jo Bussie

Mary Mawhinney

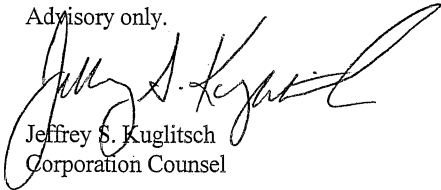
Louis Peer

Alan Sweeney

Terry Thomas

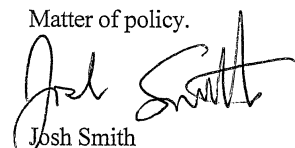
LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.


Jeffrey S. Kuglitsch
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Matter of policy.


Josh Smith
County Administrator

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution is advisory only and has no direct fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.


Sherry Oja
Finance Director

Executive Summary

Over the last several years there have been increasing instances of nuisance/indiscriminate target shooting on lands owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the State of Wisconsin in Rock County. In particular, the Town of Avon has been frustrated by the amount of indiscriminate target shooting on state owned lands.

Rock County has over 6,300 acres of land owned by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Most of these acres are available for the public's use for recreation to hike, hunt, bird watch, fish, and camp. Safety concerns for those people utilizing the state owned lands for recreation are a top priority of Rock County.

Concerns have been raised about people entering state owned lands to discharge weapons, with no particular targets. Trees are shot up, and often times junk (old appliances, tvs, etc.) are used as targets. Trees that have aesthetic value for bird watchers and wildlife nesting are left shredded and destroyed. Neighbors have been complaining because as target shooters start random target practice at no particular objects other than trees, bullets could potentially be making their way past the line-of-sight from the people shooting. Often times there are tree-lines or brushy areas that limit the visibility of the target shooters. Beyond the limited sight lines of the people discharging their weapons often times reside buildings (houses, barns, machine sheds), people hunting, hikers, pastured livestock, or children playing in yards.

The Sheriff's Office is unable to specifically address target shooting on state owned land when complaints are filed. DNR is limited to what they can enforce on lands owned by the State of Wisconsin in Rock County. Rock County is currently excluded from Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 45.09(5) which covers target shooting on state owned lands. If Rock County were included, all areas in Rock County owned by the State of Wisconsin would be included. These lands would include (but not limited to) the Evansville, Turtle Creek, Hanover, Lima Marsh, Storr's Lake, and Avon Bottoms Wildlife Areas.

By including Rock County in Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 45.09(5) the Sheriff's Office will have options of enforcement available to them to address indiscriminate target shooting on state owned land.

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor Jeremy Zajac and
Supervisor Thomas J. Brien
INITIATED BY



Randy Terronez
DRAFTED BY

County Board Staff Committee
SUBMITTED BY

February 12, 2016
DATE DRAFTED

**Opposition to Senate Bill 432/Assembly Bill 554 Allowing for Privatization of Water
Utility**

1 **WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 432/Assembly Bill 554 proposes changes to allow communities that operate
2 water utility systems to transfer ownership/management from the public sector to the private sector; and,
3

4 **WHEREAS**, the bills could result in out-of-state and potentially multi-national companies to assume
5 control of municipal water supplies with less oversight; and,
6

7 **WHEREAS**, privatization of water utility systems often leads to declining quality of service, higher
8 water rates, less accountability and oversight as private companies do not face elections or have to
9 disclose operational information; and,
10

11 **WHEREAS**, current law requires:

12 A. A thorough review and approval by the State's Public Service Commission which would
13 evaluate the water utility value, proposed conditions of sale/lease prior to holding a
14 referendum;

15 B. A referendum prior to selling or leasing publicly owned water utility systems, with the ballot
16 language to include factual information about the costs and conditions of the sale/lease. This
17 procedure ensures citizens agree to a change in the ownership or operation of a publicly
18 owned water utility system; and,
19

20 **WHEREAS**, proposed legislation would put the burden on citizens to petition for a referendum and
21 places the Public Service Commission review and approval after approval by a local referendum; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the privatization of water utility systems is a means to profit from what should be a public
24 good and a basic human right and the State should be working to strengthen, not weaken the ability to
25 protect valuable resources such as our public drinking water.
26

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors, duly
28 assembled this _____ day of _____, 2016, does hereby oppose Senate Bill 432/Assembly Bill
29 554; and,
30

31 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk be directed to send a copy of this resolution to
32 Rock County's legislative delegation, the authors of the bill, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.
33

Respectfully submitted,

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

J. Russell Podzilni, Chair

Sandra Kraft, Vice Chair

Eva Arnold

Henry Brill

Betty Jo Bussie

Mary Mawhinney


Louis Peer

Alan Sweeney

Terry Thomas

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Matter of policy.



Josh Smith
County Administrator

FISCAL NOTE:

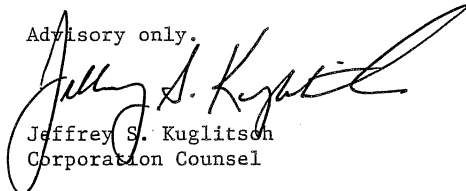
This resolution is advisory only and has no direct fiscal impact on Rock County operations in and by itself.



Sherry Oja
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

Advisory only.



Jeffrey S. Kuglitson
Corporation Counsel

Senate Bill 432

This bill makes changes to current law. One of the most significant changes is the way a sale of utilities are approved. Under the proposed legislation a referendum is not required for the proposed sale unless within 30 days the municipality adopts the ordinance or resolution required under the current law, a petition requesting the referendum is filed with the municipal clerk. The petition must be signed by a number of the municipalities qualified electors that is at least 25% of the votes cast in the municipality for governor in the last election (in the case of Janesville that would be 19,836 signatures). If a petition is not filed within the deadline, no referendum is required and the municipality must submit the proposal to the PSC for approval.

There is only one municipality that is owned by a private corporation. Superior's base charge is \$51 per quarter more than double the average \$21 for major water utilities in the state.

When base charges and the amount charged per gallon are taken into account, the average quarterly bill for a Superior customer using 5,000 gallons of water is \$152 a month compared with the state average of \$73.

This bill was drafted for a Pennsylvania-based company Aqua America. In 2014 the CEO was paid a salary of \$694,000. With stock options and other perks, his compensation amounted to 3.4 million.

2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

2015 SENATE BILL 432

December 3, 2015 - Introduced by Senator LASEE, cosponsored by Representatives AUGUST, ZEPNICK, SANFELIPPO, MURPHY, KLEEFISCH, KNODL and SKOWRONSKI. Referred to Committee on Workforce Development, Public Works, and Military Affairs.

1 **AN ACT** to renumber and amend 66.0817 (3) and 196.795 (6m) (a) 3.; to
2 consolidate, renumber and amend 66.0817 (4) and (5); and to create
3 66.0817 (5m) of the statutes; relating to: out-of-state sewer and water
4 affiliates of public utility holding companies and the sale or lease of municipal
5 water or sewer public utilities to investor-owned public utilities.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill changes how the assets of out-of-state sewer and water affiliates are treated under a current law that limits the extent to which a public utility holding company (holding company) can invest in nonutility affiliates. The bill also makes changes to the procedure that applies under current law for the sale or lease of a water or sewer utility by a city, village, or town (municipality) to an investor-owned public utility.

Holding companies. Current law imposes certain requirements on a holding company, which is a company that controls 5 percent or more of the outstanding voting securities of a public utility that is not a telecommunications utility. A public utility that is controlled by a holding company is called a public utility affiliate. Other affiliates that the holding company controls are called nonutility affiliates.

Current law limits nonutility investments by prohibiting the sum of the assets of each nonutility affiliate of the holding company from exceeding limits that are based on specified percentages of the assets of the public utility affiliates. Current law includes a test for determining whether an out-of-state affiliate is treated like

a public utility affiliate or nonutility affiliate for purposes of the limits on nonutility investments. Under the test, if an out-of-state affiliate is incorporated in another state and satisfies all of the following requirements, it is treated like a public utility affiliate: 1) it provides heat, light, power, or natural gas for public use in another state; 2) it is an "affiliated interest," as defined under current law, of a public utility in this state; and 3) it is operated on an integrated system basis with that public utility. If an out-of-state affiliate does not satisfy the foregoing requirements, it is treated like a nonutility affiliate.

This bill allows an out-of-state affiliate that provides sewer service or water

for public use to satisfy the first requirement itemized above and exempts such an affiliate from satisfying the third requirement. As a result, if an out-of-state sewer or water affiliate is incorporated in another state and satisfies the test as affected by the bill, its assets are treated like public utility affiliate assets for purposes of the limits on nonutility investments.

Sales and leases. Under current law, for any type of municipal utility, the municipality must adopt an ordinance or resolution authorizing a proposed sale or lease and submit the proposal to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for approval. If the PSC determines that the interests of the municipality and its residents will be best served by the sale or lease, the PSC must fix the price and other terms. If the PSC does so, the proposal must then be approved by a majority of the municipality's residents in a referendum. The notice for the referendum must include the price and terms fixed by the PSC. If a majority of the municipality's residents approve the proposal, the municipality may consummate the sale or lease with the proposed purchaser or lessee on the terms fixed by the PSC and at a price not less than the price fixed by the PSC. However, the municipality may also consummate the purchase or lease with any other person with whom better terms approved by the PSC can be made. If the municipality does not consummate the sale or lease within one year of the referendum, or the time is not extended by the PSC, the proceedings are void.

The bill applies to the proposed sale or lease of a municipal water or sewer utility and does not affect proposals involving other types of utilities. Also, the bill applies only to sales or leases to investor-owned public utilities. Under the bill, a referendum on the proposed sale or lease is not required unless, within 30 days after the municipality adopts the ordinance or resolution required under current law, a petition requesting the referendum is filed with the municipal clerk. The petition must be signed by a number of the municipality's qualified electors that is at least 25 percent of the votes cast in the municipality for governor in the last general election. If a petition is not filed within that deadline, no referendum is required and the municipality must submit the proposal to the PSC. If a referendum is held due to the filing of a petition within the deadline and a majority approves the proposal, the municipality must submit the proposal to the PSC for approval.

Under the bill, the PSC has similar authority regarding the proposal as under current law. If the PSC approves the proposal, the municipality may consummate the sale or lease with the proposed purchaser or lessee on the terms fixed by the PSC and at a price not less than the price fixed by the PSC. Finally, the bill provides that if the municipality does not consummate the sale or lease within one year after

submitting the proposal to the PSC for approval, or the time is not extended by the PSC, the proceedings are void.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. 66.0817 (3) of the statutes is renumbered 66.0817 (3) (a) and
2 amended to read:

3 66.0817 (3) (a) ~~The~~ Except as provided in sub. (5m), the municipality shall
4 submit the preliminary agreement when executed to the department of
5 transportation or public service commission, which shall determine whether the
6 interests of the municipality and its residents will be best served by the sale or lease,
7 and if it so determines, shall fix the price and other terms.

8 SECTION 2. 66.0817 (4) and (5) of the statutes are consolidated, renumbered
9 66.0817 (3) (b) and amended to read:

10 66.0817 (3) (b) After the price and other terms are fixed under ~~sub. (3)~~ par. (a),
11 the proposal shall be submitted to the electors of the municipality. The notice of the
12 referendum shall include a description of the plant and a summary of the
13 preliminary agreement and of the price and terms as fixed by the department of
14 transportation or public service commission. If a majority voting on the question
15 votes for the sale or lease, the board or council may consummate the sale or lease,
16 upon the terms and at a price not less than fixed by the department of transportation
17 or public service commission, with the proposed purchaser or lessee or any other with
18 whom better terms approved by the department of transportation or public service
19 commission can be made. ~~(5)~~ Unless the sale or lease is consummated within one
20 year of the referendum, or the time is extended by the department of transportation
21 or public service commission, the proceedings are void.

1 SECTION 3. 66.0817 (5m) of the statutes is created to read:

2 66.0817 (5m) If the preliminary agreement is for the sale or lease of a public
3 utility that furnishes water or sewer service to an investor-owned public utility, the
4 proposal shall be submitted to the electors of the municipality if, within 30 days after
5 the adoption of a resolution or ordinance under sub. (1), a petition conforming to the
6 requirements of s. 8.40 requesting such submission, signed by a number of qualified
7 electors equal to at least 25 percent of the votes cast in the municipality for governor
8 at the last general election, is filed in the office of the municipal clerk. If a petition
9 is not filed within that time, or if a referendum is held and a majority voting on the
10 question votes for the sale or lease, the municipality shall submit the preliminary
11 agreement to the public service commission, which shall determine whether the
12 interests of the municipality and its residents will be best served by the sale or lease.
13 If the public service commission determines those interests are best served by the
14 sale or lease, the commission shall fix the price and other terms. The municipality
15 may consummate the sale or lease, upon the terms, and at a price not less than, fixed
16 by the public service commission, with the proposed purchaser or lessee. Unless the
17 sale or lease is consummated within one year of submission of the preliminary
18 agreement to the public service commission, or the time is extended by the
19 commission, the proceedings are void.

20 SECTION 4. 196.795 (6m) (a) 3. of the statutes is renumbered 196.795 (6m) (a)
21 3. (intro.) and amended to read:

22 196.795 (6m) (a) 3. (intro.) "Foreign affiliate" means a person that is engaged
23 in the production, transmission, delivery or furnishing of sewer service, heat, light,
24 power, water, or natural gas either directly or indirectly to or for use of the public in
25 another state, and that satisfies all of the following:

1 a. The person is incorporated under the laws of another state, ~~that~~.

2 b. The person is an affiliated interest, as defined in s. 196.52 (1), of a public
3 utility ~~and that~~.

4 c. The person is operated on an integrated system basis, as determined by the
5 commission, with the public utility under subd. 3. b., except that this subd. 3. c. does
6 not apply if the person is engaged in the production, transmission, delivery, or
7 furnishing of water or sewer service.

8 SECTION 5. Initial applicability.

9 (1) The treatment of section 66.0817 (3) and (5m) of the statutes first applies
10 to preliminary agreements that are executed on the effective date of this subsection.

11 (END)

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Workforce Development, Public Works, and Military Affairs

Senate Bill 432

Relating to: out-of-state sewer and water affiliates of public utility holding companies and the sale or lease of municipal water or sewer public utilities to investor-owned public utilities.

By Senator Lasee; cosponsored by Representatives August, Zepnick, Sanfelippo, Murphy, Kleefisch, Knodl and Skowronski.

December 03, 2015 Referred to Committee on Workforce Development, Public Works, and Military Affairs

January 05, 2016 **Public Hearing Held**

Present: (5) Senator Roth; Senators Gudex, Stroebel, C. Larson and Lassa.
Absent: (0) None.
Excused: (0) None.

Appearances For

- Adam Gibbs - Senator Frank Lasee, 1st Senate District
- Jim Bilotta - AQUA

Appearances Against

- Matt Bromley - Municipal Electrical Utilities of WI
- Randy Jaeckels - New Holstein Utilities
- Laurie Kobza - Municipal Environmental Group - Water Division

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Curt Witynski - League of WI Municipalities
- John Schulze - Associated Builders and Contractors of WI
- Representative Tyler August - 32nd Assembly District

Registrations Against

- Joan Arnold
- Ruth Pauly
- Dave Lawrence - WI Rural Water Association
- Genie Ogden

- Jennifer Giegerich - WI League of Conservation Voters
- Amber Meyer Smith - Clean Wisconsin

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

Jason Vick
Committee Clerk

http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/environment/private-water-utility-costs-consumers-in-superior/article_2a787437-c52c-5227-b10a-55207e391874.html

EDITOR'S PICK

UTILITIES | COMPANY PROFITS FACTORED INTO RATES

Private water utility costs consumers in Superior

STEVEN VERBURG sverburg@madison.com, 608-252-6118 Feb 9, 2016

A glass of water in Superior, a city that stands on the shore of the largest freshwater supply in the world, costs more than almost anywhere else in the state.

One reason for the high cost is that the city's drinking water system is owned by a private corporation, the only one of Wisconsin's roughly 80 major municipal drinking water systems that isn't publicly owned.

In setting water rates for Superior, the state Public Service Commission (PSC) awarded the water system owner, Allete Inc. of Duluth, Minnesota, a return on investment of more than 9 percent, the highest in Wisconsin.

The author of a bill to make it easier for out-of-state corporations to buy Wisconsin drinking water systems — and harder for citizens to block them — says there is no need to worry that a private owner would jack up water bills, because the PSC sets prices.

But the PSC factored in the profit expectations of the company's shareholders and higher debt costs of private utilities in setting Allete's base water rate higher than any other large water system.

"It is typical for private water utilities to have higher rates and lower access than municipal systems," said Jenny Kehl, director of the UW-Madison Center for Water Policy.

“It is typical for private water utilities to have higher rates and lower access than municipal systems,” said Jenny Kehl, director of the UW-Madison Center for Water Policy.

The base charge for water in Superior — \$51 per quarter — is more than double the average \$21 for major water utilities in the state, according to data from the PSC website.

When base charges and the amount charged per gallon are taken into account, the average quarterly bill for a Superior customer using 5,000 gallons monthly is \$152 a month, compared with the state average of \$73, according to a study conducted last year by the Madison Water Utility.

“It is difficult to compare our rates only to municipal-owned systems,” said Paul Holt, manager and treasurer for Superior Water, Light and Power, which has been owned by Allete since 1923.

Holt said rates were structured to ensure that the company could compete for investors. The company has purchased a new storage tower and reservoir in the last 10 years, but those improvements aren’t necessarily more extensive than those done by other water systems, Holt said.

Lawrie Kobza, a Madison attorney who represents publicly owned utilities, said the PSC sets rates for municipal water utilities high enough to cover operating costs, but they can’t make a profit.

However, rates are set to also cover a “rate of return,” which is the amount needed to repay money borrowed to buy equipment such as pumps, pipelines and facilities for storage and treatment of water, Kobza said.

For Allete, the cost of borrowing money is higher because as a private corporation it can't command the lower interest rates the municipal utilities get through laws that allow them to sell tax-free bonds.

In addition, the PSC adds income aimed at making Allete stock more desirable to shareholders, Kobza said.

Allete owns the Superior utilities and several others in Minnesota, said company spokeswoman Kelley Eldien.

One publicly owned water system in Wisconsin had a higher overall bill than Superior. The village of Howard, just outside Green Bay, had an average quarterly bill of \$153.45.

Howard public works director Geoff Fahr said a purchase agreement with the Central Brown County Water Utility was the major cost factor underlying its water rate. The village was forced to purchase its water after radium above federal standards was found in village wells.

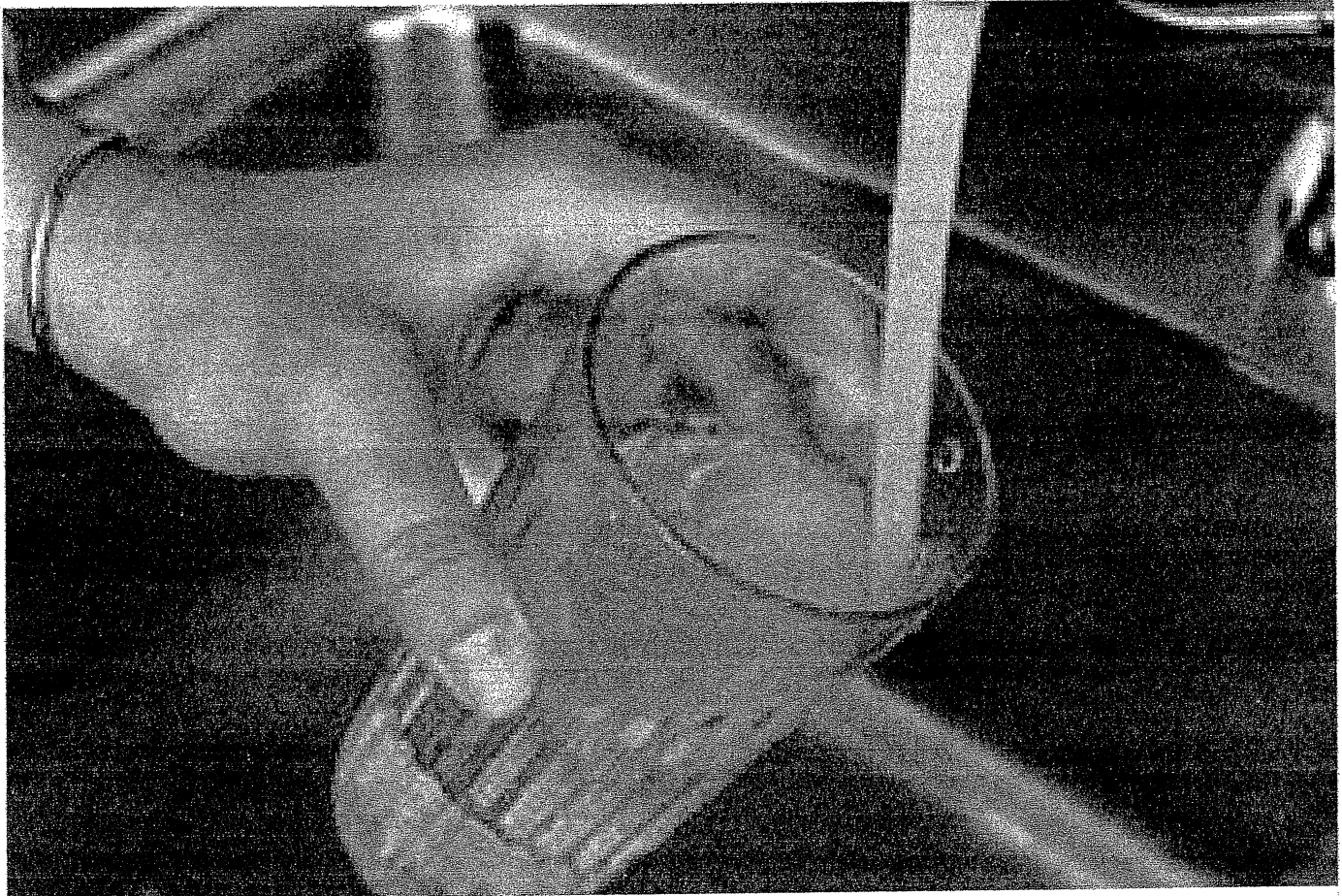
The lead author of the proposal legislation, Rep. Tyler August, R-Lake Geneva, didn't respond to requests for comment Monday.

The Assembly passed AB 554 on Jan. 12. A Senate committee approved the Senate version, SB 432, on a 3-2 party-line vote Jan. 28.

August said last month that he introduced the legislation at the request of Aqua America Inc., a Pennsylvania-based company that owns water and sewer utilities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas, Illinois, North Carolina, New Jersey, Indiana and Virginia.

August's proposal would change the procedure for approving a purchase.

Under existing law, the PSC sets the terms of sale, which must be approved by a public referendum in order to be completed. Under the proposal, a referendum is optional. Voters would need to gather signatures to force a vote, and the election would take place before the PSC set the terms.



Bill to ease sales of water supplies into private hands sparks clash

WHEREAS, AB 554/SB 432 potentially makes it possible for communities to transfer water utility management from the public sector to the private sector, which means out-of-state and potentially multi-national companies will assume control of our public water supplies with less oversight. Water privatization most often leads to declining quality of service, higher water rates, less accountability and oversight (private companies do not face elections or have to share information), and a loss of public sector jobs; and

WHEREAS, Water privatization is when private companies operate or even purchase public water systems in hopes of profiting from what should be a public good and a basic human right; and

WHEREAS, Current Wisconsin law requires a referendum be put before voters before public drinking water facilities are sold or leased, and the referendum must include information about the costs and conditions of sale. The procedures in current law ensure citizens agree to privatization of their public water utility.

WHEREAS, this proposed bill would put the burden on citizens to petition for a referendum, and doesn't require that the Public Service Commission evaluate the value of the water system or proposed conditions of sale or lease before the referendum occurs, which is a requirement of existing law.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in a time when we should be working to protect and strengthen valuable resources such as public drinking water, the City of Janesville Common Council calls upon the Wisconsin State Legislature to vote down this important piece of legislation that could put the lives of residents in danger in favor of profits.



CITY OF **M** MILTON

a community since 1838

City of Milton Common Council
Resolution on 2016-3
Opposition of Wisconsin State Senate Bill 432

WHEREAS, AB 554/SB 432 potentially makes it possible for communities to transfer water utility management from the public sector to the private sector, which means out-of-state and potentially multi-national companies will assume control of our public water supplies with less oversight. Water privatization most often leads to declining quality of service, higher water rates, less accountability and oversight (private companies do not face elections or have to share information), and a loss of public sector jobs; and

WHEREAS, Water privatization is when private companies operate or even purchase public water systems in hopes of profiting from what should be a public good and a basic human right; and

WHEREAS, Current Wisconsin law requires a referendum be put before voters before public drinking water facilities are sold or leased, and the referendum must include information about the costs and conditions of sale. The procedures in current law ensure citizens agree to privatization of their public water utility.

WHEREAS, this proposed bill would put the burden on citizens to petition for a referendum, and doesn't require that the Public Service Commission evaluate the value of the water system or proposed conditions of sale or lease before the referendum occurs, which is a requirement of existing law.

City of Milton Common Council
Resolution on 2016-3
Opposition of Wisconsin State Senate Bill 432

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in a time when we should be working to strengthen, not weaken, our ability to protect valuable resources such as public drinking water, the City of Milton Common Council calls upon the Wisconsin State Legislature to vote down Senate Bill 432.

Anissa Welch, Mayor

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Elena Hilby, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. _____

AGENDA NO. _____

RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Charmian Klyve
INITIATED BY



Melissa Meboe
DRAFTED BY

Human Service Board
SUBMITTED BY

February 17, 2016
DATE DRAFTED

To Recognize Stephen Drew

1 **WHEREAS**, Stephen "Skip" Drew has served the citizens of Rock County for over twenty six (26)
2 years as a dedicated and valued employee of Rock County; and,

3
4 **WHEREAS**, Skip began his career on October 24, 1989 as a part time psychiatric technician in the
5 Rock County Psychiatric Hospital. While working in this program, Mr. Drew worked directly with
6 individuals hospitalized or placed in detox during a mental health or substance abuse emergency, and
7 after eleven (11) years in that role, on June 30, 2000, Skip expanded his role by becoming a pool crisis
8 worker and eventually a full time crisis worker in 2001; and,

9
10 **WHEREAS**, Skip continued as a Crisis Worker until 2012, working closely with community partners;
11 police, hospital staff, natural supports and individuals themselves, providing emergency mental health
12 assessments and working to find the least restrictive way to provide for the safety of the individuals
13 while also linking to appropriate resources; and,

14
15 **WHEREAS**, in February, 2012, Mr. Drew shifted focus once again when he accepted a full time
16 position in the crisis unit as a psychiatric technician. In this role he was able to use his many years of
17 expertise to assist in the daily needs to problem solve needs in the community to assist the unit in
18 functioning effectively, and assuring all requests for community response could be addressed. He
19 provided direct phone support to thousands of Rock County residents and assisted community partners
20 by providing consultation, educating on mental health law, and problem solving situations that were
21 crisis related; and,

22
23 **WHEREAS**, Skip Drew has an open ear and willingness to talk to and support individuals in crisis,
24 and Skip's compassion for others sets him apart as a staff member, and his knowledge of Rock County
25 resources made him an asset to the community. He leaves behind a legacy of a sincere willingness to
26 help anyone in need, unconditional positive regard for others and a remarkable ability to immediately
27 see the value in everyone with whom he has contact; and,

28
29 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Drew will retire from Rock County Department of Human Services on March 2,
30 2016; and,

31
32 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors, representing the citizens of Rock County, wishes
33 to recognize Skip Drew for his achievements and significant contributions to the citizens of Rock
34 County and his long and faithful service.

35
36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors, duly
37 assembled this _____ day of _____, 2016, does hereby recognize Skip Drew for his 26 years of
38 service and extend best wishes to him in his future adventures; and,

39
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk be authorized and directed to furnish a copy of
41 this resolution to Skip Drew.

To Recognize Stephen Drew

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ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

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Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Vice Chair

Terry Fell

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