

## RESOLUTION NO. 09-10

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 PUCO

**A RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO AND OPPOSING THE PROPOSED WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASES FILED BY OHIO AMERICAN WATER WITH THE OHIO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

PREAMBLE

**WHEREAS**, certain residents of Blendon Township, Franklin County, Ohio (the "Township") receive water and sewer services from Ohio American Water ("OAW"); and

**WHEREAS**, in June of 2009, OAW filed a request with the Ohio Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") to substantially increase rates for all of its residential customers in Ohio, including numerous residents of the Township, over a four year period as follows: 24.63% increase in April 2010; 22.30% increase in April of 2011; 6.82% in April of 2012; and 5.77% increase in 2013, resulting in a total increase of approximately 60%; and

**WHEREAS**, the request by OAW is their third rate increase request in three years and, if granted, will result in approximate increases of 240% in water rates and 300% in sewer rates since 1999 to these Township residents; and

**WHEREAS**, the PUCO mission is to "assure all residential and business consumers access to adequate, safe and reliable utility services at fair prices, while facilitating an environment that provides competitive choices;" and

**WHEREAS**, Township residents receiving OAW water and sewer services already pay a substantially higher and unfair rate for such services when compared with both other Township residents and residents of surrounding jurisdictions that receive such services from other utility providers; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the current difficult economic times and previous rate increases granted to OAW, the Board of Trustees of the Township believes a rate increase of 60% for water and sewer services is unjustified and will result in many Township residents not being able to afford water and sewer services; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees believes it is in the best interests of the Township and its residents to oppose the proposed OAW water and sewer rate increase filed with the PUCO and to further urge the Commissioners of the PUCO to reject OAW's proposed rate increase.

RESOLUTION

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of Blendon Township, Franklin County, Ohio (the "Board") that the following Resolution be, and it hereby is, adopted:

**Section 1.** The Board hereby objects to and opposes the proposed OAW water and sewer rate increase as filed with the PUCO in June of 2009. The Board believes that OAW's requested increases are unfair, excessive and incapable of justification. The Board further agrees to support, assist and work with other governmental jurisdictions affected by the proposed OAW water and sewer rate increase in opposing such increases.

**Section 2.** The Board hereby requests that the Commissioners of the PUCO reject the proposed water and sewer rate increases as filed by OAW and secondarily requests that should PUCO grant an increase to OAW, that any increase be equitable to the consumer and be based upon fair and responsible calculations.

**Section 3.** The Board hereby authorizes and directs the Township Fiscal Officer to file and/or forward a copy of this Resolution to the Docketing Division of the PUCO, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel ("OCC"), Franklin County Commissioners, and each of the respective state legislators whose legislative districts encompasses the Township.

**Section 4.** The Board authorizes and appoints each of the following persons to appear and speak on behalf of the Board at any meeting and/or hearing to be held by the PUCO in its review of OAW's water and sewer rate increase proposal: each member of the Board; the Township Fiscal Officer; and/or such other Township employee(s) as each Trustee may deem necessary or desirable.

**Section 5.** The Board of Trustees encourages all Township residents to contact the PUCO, the OCC, and their state legislators through letters and phone calls voicing their opinion on OAW's proposed water and sewer rate increases.

**Section 6** All formal actions of this Board, concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution, were adopted in an open meeting of this Board, and all deliberations of the Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its adoption.

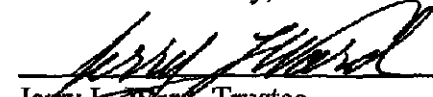
Adopted: September 2, 2009

**BLENDON TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES,  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

Adopted: September 2, 2009

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stewart L. Flaherty, Chairman

Attest and Certified

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry L. Ward, Trustee

  
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Wade L. Estep, Fiscal Officer

  
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Alex Stallings, Trustee