

**My Name is Marty Helton;**

**I live in the Village of Sand Lake at 550 West Lake Street. I was also the Former DPW Supervisor for the Village of Sand Lake 14 Years.**

**I Resigned 9 years ago. When I started working for the Village of Sand Lake as the DPW Supervisor My salary was \$33000 thousand a year. When I resigned 14 years later I made \$45,000 a year, and out of my yearly salary I had to Pay out \$5000 thousand dollars a year for half of my health insurance so my total income was \$40,000 a year.**

**I had my entire License's My Water S-3 Distribution License, My Water D-4 Chemical License My L-1- L-2 Waste Water License and My CDL License. I ran everything with a part time 20 hour a week employee. The complete Water Department and sampling, complete Waste Water Department and sampling, and all the DPW Departments, Major and Local streets, Buildings and grounds, Storm Drains, Parks and Recreation, Street Signs and Traffic, Sidewalks, All Equipment rental and Maintenance on all vehicles, tractors and equipment, Cemetery waste, All winter maintenance for the complete Village, Monthly Hydrant flushing on all dead end Hydrants to keep water system clean and yearly maintenance and flushing on all Hydrants, Twice a year water tower valve maintenance and Duties that the DPW department is doing now.**

**I have done this all with A part time 20 hour a week Employee, ( ALL the Duties that the DPW Supervisor, DPW Part time help, AND all Outside Contracted services that is being Hired to Run the Water And Waste Water Departments are doing now.) That all Village tax payers are paying for, And I know that these Contracted Services do not come cheap at any rate and any Village resident can find out how much these Outside Contracted services are costing us.**

**After my resignation the Village had to Hire Outside contracted services to Run all the Water and Waste Water Departments that I had once done until the New DPW Supervisor that was hired to do my job was able to Get all his licenses, Then all the Outside Contracted Services that were being paid to run the Water and Waste water Departments would be discontinued so that the Village Tax Payers would Not have to pay so much for their Water and Waste Water Services.**

**At last week's committee meeting that I attended it was mentioned to spend an extra \$20,000 Dollars to install water meters to all the homes in the Village, I spoke out and said why is this being done, I said that the people will use less water, at that time there was someone that complained of sulfur smell in her water. I then said if anybody has sulfur smell it will be worse and the Village will be pumping more water to waste to keep the system clean. The committee told me that the EGLE former DEQ suggested that they put meters on the homes. Just to let all the tax payers know that if the village does this then on top of installing the meters they will have to put outside meter readers on all the homes then the village will have to pay someone to read the meters monthly. With the meters on the homes and paying someone to read them monthly plus the contracted services being paid out our water rates will do nothing but skyrocket. And residents will be using less and less water while the Village water Department pumps more and more water to waste to keep our system clean.**

Since I have worked as the DPW Supervisor the EGLE has always suggested to put meters on the homes but it was not never mandatory to do so, matter of fact the EGLE suggested for us to use more water to keep our water system clean and if EGLE did suggest that the village put meters on all the homes and Leslie from the EGLE also wrote a letter and suggested to the Village that the new housing development on Ritchie should be hooked up to the Village Sewer system then why not get that done as well.

When I resigned The Water Rates that the residents were paying were \$57 dollars a Quarter that's (\$228.00 a year) and the Waste Water rates were \$40 dollars a Quarter That's (\$160.00 a year), A total of \$388.00 Dollars a year that each Village resident paid. The utility rates now that The Village Residents are paying are Water: \$83.00 dollars a Quarter that's (\$332.00 dollars a year) and Waste Water: \$83.00 dollars a Quarter that's another (\$332.00 dollars a year. In Total that's \$664.00 dollars a year on top of our High Taxes.

If The Village continues on with Paying the extra using our money the Village residents money to hire the outside contracted services to run the Water and Waste Water Departments (that should not be here) and installs meters to all the homes and pays someone to read the meters, us tax payers water and waste water rates and Our Village Taxes will do nothing but increase and increase at a rate that we won't be able to live in the Village of Sand Lake anymore.

After the DPW Supervisor that replaced me resigned, I talked to Tracy the New Village President and I have all this information on text as well about the New DPW position that was needed to Run the Village and water and waste water Departments and I Mentioned to her that the position should be filled with a Person That already is working in the DPW Department that already has his or hers Water and Waste Water Licenses. I said with a comparison from other municipality's, then set a salary to Run everything like I had done, DPW, Water and Waste Water and I said that she would be able to get the position filled right away.

With this being said and with the village residents already paying such high property taxes, This would eliminate the Outside Contracted services that are running the water and waste water departments and keep our utility rates low.

Chad was hired to be the New DPW Supervisor. I don't have nothing against Chad at all and I really like him but he was hired for the DPW Supervisors Job with no licenses and now we the Village will have to foot the extra cost of the Outside Contracted services needed to run the water and waste water.

If Chad gets the 15% raise that has been mentioned this year he will be making roughly around \$53000 dollars a year plus the village will have to pay Howard City for the Contracted services needed.

Chad should not be paid anymore than the \$53000 dollars a year with all his licenses needed to run the water and waste water department.

I am not asking that Chad lose his Job but he should be Treated the same as I was. I had a certain time Limit, Two years to receive all my licenses or I was terminated. And it was in the Job description that the Part Time DPW employee would get his water and waste water licenses as well so the Village would have a back up person.

When Dave Dewey was Village President He Fired Billy Fifield that worked with me as the Part time DPW employee after 2 years because he could not pass and get his licenses.

Also just so that the Residents and Village Tax Payers know that the Village Council approved to separate the DPW Department from the Water and Waste water Departments, This has never been done before. The DPW, Water and Waste Water Departments were always controlled under One Person, THE DPW Supervisor, And It was mandatory for this to be so the DPW Supervisor would have to get his Water and Waste Water Licenses.

Chad and I had a conversation and I was told that the Village wants to hire another full time employee. Yes I was furious after hearing this but I held my temper until I was by myself. So if this happens the Village residents or tax payers will be paying for a full time DPW Supervisor making \$53000 thousand dollars a year with no water and waste water licenses, Pay for a part time DPW employee and Pay for another Full time Water and Waste Water operator that could be making the Same wages as Chad.

Continuing On,,,, With the 3 to 4 homes on Lake st that is in need of Village Sewer and with the new housing development that will be put in on Ritchie Ave. To start with that's 20 homes and if the Lift station was to be put in the Village of Sand Lake would get for the first year Just for Sewer hookup fees would be \$60,000 thousand dollars and with the first year revenues for just Sewer would be \$6,640 dollars that would be \$66,640 dollars for the first year then the Village would get \$6,640 dollars every year after that for just waste water revenues.

This Money that I had just mentioned with some of the Equipment Rental funding that is now being spent on equipment that could have waited a couple years, A backhoe, Bobcat with attachments and a Box Scraper and the Money that is being wasted on outside contracted services to run the Village water and Waste Water departments Could have went towards the New Waste Water Lift Station That is Needed.

This is what we are dealing with and with all the Thousands and Thousands of dollars being wasted and now the village wants to combine the Treasures and Secretaries Jobs that was brought up at last week's committee meeting and they said the village will save \$14,000 thousand dollars a year by doing this. I would like to know that after they merge these two positions and make one, How much of a raise will that person get for doing two jobs, If the Village wants to save \$14000 dollars. Than there should be no raise.

This council does not even think of the village tax payers, They say we will do this and that's it, No matter how much it cost and the consequences of it.

I wonder if the Village Council even thinks about the 60 % of the Village residents that are struggling to even survive, some of them have to go without important means to survive just in order to Pay their Taxes and Utilities Bills. It must be nice to have loads of money and spent our tax payer's money as well.

One other thing, out of the 60 years That I have lived and Worked in this Village I have never heard so much about the Hatred between the Village and Chamber of Commerce and the Village and Nelson Township. So with this being said is it everyone else that needs to change and Not the Village Council.

**Is this what the Village residents and Tax Payers want is a Village Council that is turning against us and that we have to pay for all their mistakes? I don't think so.**

**We need the New Lift Station put in on Lake street, the DPW and the Budget back to where it's supposed to be without the Tax Payers footing the bill for all the mistakes made. And the Village Council needs to get back to where it's supposed to be with a kind caring passion towards the Tax Payers and the surrounding Governments that once all worked together in Peace. I hope the rest of the Village residents and Tax Payers will stand with me and fight this to the end.**

**This is an outrage,**

**This letter will go out to all the papers that I can get it to and everyone is going to know the TRUTH and what is going on in this Village.**

**Sincerely Marty Helton**

**Life Time Village resident,**

**Former Department of Public Works Supervisor for 14 years,**

**Former Council Member.**

**Former Village of Sand Lake Fire Department.**

**Former Chamber of Commerce President.**