

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE POLICY ADOPTION
WATER LINE FREEZE PREVENTION

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**POLICY FOR POWELL TOWNSHIP
WATER LINE FREEZE PREVENTION**

The Board of Powell Township, Marquette County, Michigan, Ordains:

Special circumstance policy for water line freeze-ups for winter seasons; to define preventative guidelines for freezing water lines; to define "Let Run Status" for the community; to establish definitions, charges, and credits for the different areas of freezing pipes

GUIDELINES TO PREVENT LINES FROM FREEZING

Water Utility customers are advised to make an annual check of their water piping before the onset of winter weather. To protect the lines from freezing the following steps should be taken.

1. Plan the plowing, shoveling and storing of snow to maintain maximum cover over shallow underground lines.
2. Maintain temperatures for at least 40°F in all basement, crawl space, garage, and closet spaces where there are water pipes. If this is impractical, wrap the pipes with heat tape.
3. Check all heat tape to make certain that they are plugged in and working properly
4. Insulate all water piping that runs along exterior walls.
5. Run the water for two or three minutes each day to draw a change of water into the service line and house piping.

"LET RUN STATUS"

The Powell of Township will issue "Let Run" to prevent further water line freeze-ups or in severe winter circumstances. The following guidelines are for the Water Utility customers to follow

1. Turn one faucet on to a pencil size flow of cold water. The tap used for this purpose should be in a location where the noise of running water will have minimal impact on sleeping, etc. and where damage will be minimal should the drain become plugged.
2. Leave the faucet run until the water department has notified you to discontinue the "let run"
3. Authorization to waste water at Utility expense is for the current season only
4. Check the continuously running tap several times each day to make certain it is not closed accidentally or by vibration. Placing a sign near the tap as a reminder for guests and children is a good idea.

5. If your home will be unattended for more than twenty-four hours, have a friend or neighbor check it daily and fully open the tap for several minutes.
6. DO NOT use a hose or piping to connect a tap directly into a drain. This creates a cross-connection, a potentially serious health hazard.

The best way to prevent pipes from freezing is with proper installation and insulation. Wasting water is at best a bothersome and expensive temporary solution.

CHARGES AND CREDITS

A. PROBLEM IDENTIFIED AS BEING BETWEEN POWELL TOWNSHIP AND CURB STOP (township responsibility)

Identified addresses scheduled for correction by the Township. These customers will be notified by the Township when they may start letting water run without being charged for the wasted water. Authorization will not be given until the freeze index begins to approach the level at which freezing occurred previously. Only customers whose lines were thawed between main and curb stoop, by the Township are eligible. If thawing is required before authorization is issued, it will be done without charge to the customer.

B. PROBLEM IDENTIFIED AS BEING ON CUSTOMER SIDE OF CURB STOP (water residents responsibility)

No authorization to waste water at Utility expense will be granted until after the service has frozen and been thawed by private contractor. **Powell Township staff cannot enter the residence to thaw household frozen pipes.** Authorization to waste water at Utility expense is for **ONE SEASON ONLY**. Customer is responsible for correcting the problem and will be eligible for billing credits approved by Powell Township board.

C. RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROBLEM NOT IDENTIFIED

No authorization to waste water at utility expense will be granted until after the service has frozen and been thawed by appropriate personnel.

All customers have the option of running water, as they feel necessary, to prevent line freezing without receiving any credit on their water bills.

Rates will be charged following the current Powell Township Water Ordinance

During "LET RUN STATUS"

Water bills will be adjusted accordingly based on season and board approval. For customers (residential and business) with meter reads, average usage for the 12 months will be used as the usage while on the let run. If current usage is less than average usage, then bill will be for the lesser usage amount.

For Businesses that have current usage that is lesser than the average usage, the board can approve a credit to the business bill for up to 1000 gallons for the months of let run.

Late Fee

A monthly late fee of \$5% will be charged to any user who, hereof, is 30 days past due.

Enforcement

The charges for water service which are under the provisions of Section 21, Act 94 Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended, made a lien on all premises served thereby, unless notice is given that a tenant is responsible, are hereby recognized to constitute such lien and whenever official or officials in charge of the collection thereof shall certify annually, on September 1st of each year, to the tax assessing officer of the township, the fact of such delinquency, where upon shall be collected and the lien thereof enforced in the same manner as general township taxes against such premises are collected, and the lien thereof enforced; provided, however, where Section 21, no premises until cash deposit of not less than \$100 shall have been made a security for payment of charges and service.

In addition to other remedies provided, the Township shall have the right to shut off and discontinue the supply of water to any premises for the nonpayment of special rates when due. If such charges are not paid within sixty (60) days after due date thereof, then water services to such premises shall be discontinued. Water services so discontinued shall not be restored until all sums then due and owing shall be paid, plus a turn on and off charge.

Section 2: All ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this amendment are hereby repealed in so far as the conflicting portions thereof are concerned.

Section 3: This policy shall be published in full in the *Marquette Mining Journal*, a newspaper of general circulation in the township, promptly after its adoption, and shall be recorded in the Ordinance book of the Township, and such recording authenticated by the signatures of the Township Supervisor and Township Clerk.

Section 4: This policy is hereby determined by the Township Board to be immediately necessary for the preservation of the peace, health and safety of the Township and is therefore declared to have immediate effect.

Passed and adopted by the Township of Powell, county of Marquette, Michigan, on the

20th day of April, 2021 and approved by Township Supervisor on this 20th day of April, 2021.

Darlene Turner
Darlene Turner, Supervisor

Attest: [Signature]
Samantha Morin, Clerk

Yeas: Santilli
Hudson
December
Morin
Turner

Nays: _____

Absent: _____