

RESOLUTION: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MICHIGAN HOUSE BILL 4916 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION AND SUPPORTING THE ABILITY OF TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS TO CHOOSE TO HAVE AN ANALOG ELECTRIC AND GAS METER RATHER THAN A SMART (ADVANCED) METER

WHEREAS, smart meters are computerized electric meters that send electric meter readings to the utility via radiofrequency radiation multiple times per day; and

WHEREAS, analog meters are manually read electromechanical meters that have accurately measured the electric consumption of homes and businesses for over a century; and

WHEREAS, DTE Energy ("the utility") is replacing existing utility meters with smart (a.k.a, advanced or AMI) meters; and

WHEREAS, DTE Energy plans to replace all meters with either the fully functioning smart meter or the smart meter with the radiofrequency turned off ("opt-out meter"); and

WHEREAS, the opt-out meter must be manually read in the same way analog and non-transmitting digital meters must be read; and

WHEREAS, the utility, in its testimony before the Public Service Commission in U-17053, has stated that the non-transmitting smart meter performs no functions not already performed by the analog electric meter; and

WHEREAS, the utility charges the residential customer \$67.20 to have the non-transmitting "opt-out" smart meter in place of the fully functioning smart meter; and

WHEREAS, the cost of leaving in place an existing analog meter is \$0.00, thus creating an unnecessary charge on the customer who does not wish to have a smart meter on their home or business; and

WHEREAS, some persons on fixed incomes are unable to afford the opt-out fees; and

WHEREAS, the utility does not permit businesses to opt out; and

WHEREAS, citizens of this community have expressed many concerns about this replacement, including concerns about the health effects of radiofrequency radiation and the voltage transients and harmonics (line noise) generated by smart meters; concerns about privacy and hacking; concerns about fire safety and fire hazards; concerns about impending time-of-use rates and resultant increases in electric bills; and concerns about remote shut-off; and

WHEREAS, many residents in the State of Michigan have reported negative health symptoms after the installation of smart electric meters or non-transmitting opt-out meters on their homes; and

WHEREAS, some residents of the State of Michigan have reported that their smart meter has caught fire or exploded, or have reported flickering lights and appliance short-outs immediately after a smart meter was installed; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Vassar has worked tirelessly to attract positive investment while rejecting those that put our health, environment, and quality of life at risk; and

WHEREAS, the Vassar Township Board of Trustees is charged with securing and defending the overall health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the Township and their guests; and

WHEREAS, the electromagnetic frequencies emitted and generated by these meters have been shown by tens of thousands of scientific studies since the 1930s to harm biological systems and therefore may pose a serious long-term threat to the health of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, customers with a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act may not be charged for accommodation of their disability; and

WHEREAS, both the non-transmitting smart meter and the analog meter accurately measure electricity usage, and whereas both must be read by a meter reader, therefore making them indistinguishable for purposes of metering customer electrical usage; and

WHEREAS, smart meters have not been mandated by the federal or state government; and

WHEREAS, our Township is committed to providing equal opportunity and quality of life for all, and to removing full barriers to participation in public life on the basis of disability; and

WHEREAS, DTE has been unresponsive to these customer concerns; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 4916 would address these concerns without impacting the utility's ability to install smart meters on the homes and businesses of those who want a smart meter;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vassar Township Board of Trustees supports the ability of DTE customers to not participate in the smart meter program on their homes and businesses and to have their electricity usage measured by an analog meter, without suffering financial penalties or incurring monthly charges, as outlined in House Bill 4916, and that an analog option be offered in perpetuity to all utility customers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Vassar Township Board of Trustees calls upon the Chair of the House Energy Policy Committee, the members of the Energy Policy Committee, the state representative for our district, the state senator for our district, the Michigan Public Service Commission, and the Attorney General to do all in their power to ensure passage of House Bill 4916; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Vassar Township Board of Trustees calls upon the above-mentioned persons and governmental entities, if House Bill 4916 is not passed in this legislative session, to do all in their power to ensure passage of legislation in the future that will ensure that utility customers have the right to have an analog meter on their homes or

businesses to measure electricity usage, without suffering financial penalties or incurring monthly charges, and that an analog option be offered in perpetuity to all utility customers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township of Vassar urges DTE to permit those customers who wish to have their electricity usage measured by an analog meter to do so without suffering financial penalties or incurring monthly charges.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Board Member Michael Clinesmith and seconded by Board Member Bob Forbes.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted

"Aye" (5): Gray, Tester, Forbes,
Clinesmith, Stack


"Nay" (0): NONE

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.


Vassar Township Clerk

CERTIFICATE

I, Michael Clinesmith, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Vassar Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Township Board of said Township at the special meeting of said Board held on June 3, 2016, at which meeting a quorum was present, by a roll call vote of said members as hereinbefore set forth; that said resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.


Vassar Township Clerk