

MARSHALLTOWN WATER WORKS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2019





BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Special Meeting Agenda
205 East State Street
January 29, 2019 10:00 AM

1. Roll Call
2. **Public Comment Period:** Property Tax Lien Procedure
3. **Closed Session** Pursuant to Section 20.17 Subsection 3 of the Code of Iowa concerning Strategy meeting of the Public Employer for Collective Bargaining Purposes
4. **Discussion:** 2019-2020 Budget
5. **Decision:** Resolution Setting Public Hearing on Proposed 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget for the Marshalltown Water Works

January 15,2019

I am the owner of a rental property at 108 East North street. In the past, I had to pay a \$120 water bill that a former tenant did not pay. Was told that landlord needed to pay if tenant did not pay . I asked no other questions—just paid.

In October 2018, my tenant move out. Since he did not pay his rent , I assume he did not pay his water bill. I requested to have the bill sent to me if he did not pay. I wanted to pay it before the first of the year. I wanted to be sure I wasn't being charged a late charge . I was told they could not send me the bill because they needed to protect the tenants' right to privacy. I requested to have the bill sent to me with the name removed . That is what was done.

I received the bills for June-July and Aug.-.Oct. to the tune of \$368.22. I thought I better look into this more before I paid anything. I started asking questions.

.I was amazed that the water company was required to protect the tenants right to privacy. I would think they would lose that right when they left the landlord a \$368 bill to pay.

I phoned the water department to see where I could find the policy that stated landlords had to pay tenants water bills. Was informed it was in the Iowa Code --can be found on the internet. I was also told that they have been using this policy since 2011.

The code did state that the landlord was responsible to pay the tenants unpaid bill if the landlord did not file a paper with the water company for exemption of a lien. I was not aware of this.Very simple to do I will always do that in the future. I thought that I would have to pay.

Looking over the bills, I notice past due amts. on both bills. The water department said that was the amt. not paid the month before . I then requested to have the April-May bill sent to me.That also had unpaid amt.. I then inquired when was the last time the tenant paid the bill in full . I was told it was May 2017..

I reviewed the policy about when the water department turns off water for not paying. The policy was not followed. If they followed their policy, the unpaid bill would not be that large. I do not think I should be required to pay and am interested in seeing what your reasoning is that I should pay.

I was charged late charges.I cannot see how anyone would think that is right. I was assured they would not charge me late charges. .

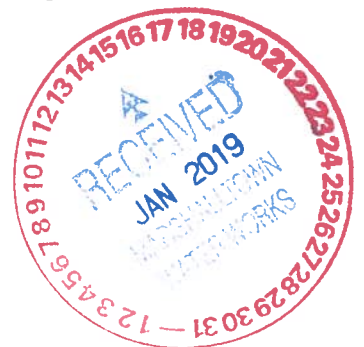
I talked with a person at the Marshall county Treasurer's office about liens filed . I was told the lien has just the address of the property where the lien is to be filed-.no name -so looks as if the landlord is not paying their bills. Would that affect the landlords' credit?

I have talked with 5 citizens that have rental property in Marshalltown and they were not aware of their need to file exemption from a lien.They know now. Is there anyway that all landlords can be notified of the request for lien exemption? .All rentals are inspected every 2 years.

Would that be the time to inform a landlord ? It would of been nice if I would of been notified about the form for exemption of a lien when I paid the \$120 water bill several years ago.

Charlene Hannan

409 N nd Ave.
Marshalltown, Iowa



% Board of Directors of Marshalltown Water Works

To whom this concerns:

I'm writing this letter in regards to a letter I received from Marshalltown Water Works. I received a letter stating a tax lien would be placed against a rental property I own at 506 N. 1st Ave, Marshalltown, IA.

Having no knowledge of this policy I inquired about it at the Marshalltown Water Works office. I was informed the tenants at the above address had been tagged and notified several times of termination of water services due to past bill not being paid. This disconnection procedure was not completed. Water services were allowed to continue to acquire a larger debt for 7 months on an outstanding unpaid balance stemming from April 2018 through October 2018. Late charges were also applied to each billing statement.

I am confused as to why disconnection policy was not enforced. This has caused me undue stress.

I feel I should not be held accountable for this debt due to the policy of disconnection were not followed.

I'm requesting this issue be re-evaluated and adjusted accordingly to resolve this issue.

I'm sending this letter to Marshalltown Water Works and also to The Board of Directors of Marshalltown Water Works in hopes of settling this issue appropriately.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
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