

From the desk of Doug Krause ...

REGARDING SMART METER

February 2013

As a council member, I am elected to represent the interests of the residents of Naperville, as are other council members. Throughout the Smart Meter discussion, it is clear to me that there is a contingent of our constituents who strongly oppose the installation of smart meters on their properties.

Therefore, on February 15, 2013 I presented to the Naperville City Council the framework of a proposal that would serve ALL the residents of Naperville in this Smart Meter discussion.

Here are my thoughts:

WHEREAS the city of Naperville electrical service is a business based entity that assures the ratepayers of a zero sum/not profit making utility, and

WHEREAS the city of Naperville has publicly stated that analog meters are being retained and stored in the city of Naperville, and

WHEREAS the city of Naperville promotes a community of communication and cooperation, and

WHEREAS the city of Naperville promotes quality customer service, and

WHEREAS the city of Naperville hires temporary/seasonal workers to reduce the expense of taxpayer dollars, operating costs while providing services to the community

THEREFORE, it is my position to propose a skeleton outline of a proposed municipal code/ordinance that is a reasonable start for open discussion, public vetting and council vote in attempts to reach a positive resolve, closure to the turmoil before the community, and meet the needs of all present and future Napervillians.

Under this proposal, homeowners have the option of having a smart meter alternative that captures energy usage and are responsible for the reporting of usage on a monthly basis. Bi-yearly, city workers will verify the homeowner readings.

The outline follows:

NAPERVILLE SMART METER ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL FRAMEWORK - 2013

DUTIES OF PROPERTY OWNER:

Any property owner/person is hereby required to:

1. Keep clean and open for access for repair and readings
2. Maintain in a safe condition for access, free of all obstructions, excavations, tall grass, weeds, trash, debris or other substances or materials which may interfere with the free use

READINGS AND REPAIR:

Property Owner upon completion of the approved installation of the Smart Meter Alternative Recording Device (either analog or digital meter) that can be read and non-transmitting shall:

1. Provide the City, in writing a monthly reading 10 days prior to the property owner's billing cycle date as established by the City Utility Designee in writing to the Property Owner.
2. Submit the monthly reading via Utility Bill Drop Box located at City Hall, e-mail to City Utility Designee or USPS attention City Utility Designee
3. Provide the City access to the Meter bi-annually for confirmation of readings.
4. City shall address meters that have defects at no charge to the Property Owner

PETITION:

Requirement For Petition for Replacement of Smart Meter to the Smart Meter Alternative Recording Device (SMARD) that can be read and non-transmitting Meter:

1. The property owner shall apply to the City in writing via certified mailing the request for Replacement of Smart Meter to the SMARD that can be read by the homeowner and is non-transmitting.
2. The City will respond within twenty-one (21) days in writing to the property owner of the scheduled date of Replacement.

PERMIT:

1. A one time fee shall be charged for said permit to replace the existing Smart Meter with the SMARD that can be easily read and is non-transmitting. The permit application shall contain the following information which shall be attested to by the owner or his agent so authorized in writing:

- a. Street address of property in question, or in absence of an assigned street number, the legal description of the property adjacent to the dedicated right-of-way in which replacement is to take place.
- b. Name and address of property owner.

INSPECTION:

Inspections Required: The Director or his authorized representative shall inspect the work to be performed under each permit as follows:

1. After submission of permit application and prior to issuance;
2. After completion of installation
3. Property Owner shall provide the City access to the SMARD non-transmitting meter bi-annually for reading verification.

FINANCE SCHEDULE:

The City Manager shall prepare a bill of costs for replacement by the City showing all actual cost incurred.

1. The property owner shall agree to install at the cost to the owner of a one-time fee of \$ XX.XX based upon a bill of costs for the SMARD that is provided by the City that includes an itemized breakdown of the cost of the material, labor and supervision thereof.
2. The Property Owner will be charged based upon the average rate of use per unit for like residential uses in the immediate area.
3. The Property Owner shall pay 100% of the actual cost for the bi-annual meter reading based upon actual cost provided by the City
4. The City shall not assess the property owner for further repairs necessary period, and such repairs, if necessary, will be at the City's expense.
5. The property owners shall be determined to be the parties who last paid the general taxes on the respective lots
6. The Director of Finance shall mailing an invoice on or before January 31 of each year to the address of the party who last paid the general taxes on the respective lots, identifying the actual costs for billing of the bi-annual meter verification to be performed by the City.
7. Any meter readings that are in arrears of sixty (60) days shall constitute a lien upon the property against which they are charged. The Finance Director shall record all such liens in the office of the county recorder where the property is situated.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP PETITIONS:

1. The City Manager or his designees shall serve as Review Board of the City.
2. Any person who is aggrieved by the application by reason of being financially unable to pay for SMARD meter replacement shall file a petition in such form as the Review Board may require fully setting forth the hardship grounds on which the petitioner relies.
3. All petitions shall be filed with the Director within thirty (30) days after the Finance Department first renders an invoice for the bill of costs.

4. The Board shall review all petitions properly filed no later than sixty (60) days after the Finance Department first renders an invoice and shall immediately thereafter report its recommendations to the City Council stating its reason or reasons for the recommendation in its report.
5. Upon receipt of the Board's report, the City Council shall, within two (2) weeks, either grant or deny the petition.