



MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE: 10/01/2013

CONSENT

ITEM #: 4

**AGENDA ITEM:** Authorize Certification to Washington County Auditor for the Unpaid Surface Water Utility Bills

**SUBMITTED BY:** Cathy Bendel, Finance Director

**REVIEWED BY:** Adam Bell, City Clerk

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**SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED:** As part of its Consent Agenda, the City Council is respectfully asked to approve the certification of the delinquent Surface Water Utility Bills to Washington County Auditor. No specific motion is needed, as this is recommended to be part of the overall approval of the *Consent Agenda*.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The City of Lake Elmo has authority by Minnesota State statute 444.075, subd.3 to assess property owners for unpaid surface water utilities and services. Affected homeowners with past due balances were sent notification of the proposed assessment. Property owners had until today to pay the balance due without additional fees.

**STAFF REPORT:** The City operated the water, sewer, and surface water under its Enterprise funds. Enterprise funds account for specific City operations that are financed and operated similar to a private business. Generally, the services are provided to identifiable beneficiaries, as well as the general public, and all or most of the costs come from user's fees.

The user fees collected are utilized to operate the City's respective water, sewer, and surface water systems. Assessing the property owners listed on Exhibit A (attached) for unpaid services will assure collection of charged fees. The deadline to certify the unpaid surface water utility to Washington County is October 15, 2013.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended the City Council authorize the certification of the delinquent surface water accounts to the Washington County Auditor.

Alternatively, the City Council does have the authority to remove this item from the Consent Agenda or a particular claim from this item and further discuss and deliberate prior to taking action.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution No. 2013-79
2. Exhibit A