

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town Chair clarifies misinformation

Town of Peshtigo Board chairperson, Cindy Boyle, released the following statement to clear up misinformation published in newspapers and social media:

“Recent newspaper reporting, and social media chatter has misled the public on the Town Board’s actions and intentions. The Open meetings law requires us to give a 24-hour notice to the public in advance of a subject being discussed at a Board meeting. I became aware of Tyco/Johnson Controls’ intention to renege on their commitment to reimburse the Town for its legal and engineering expenses to solve the PFAS contamination problem shortly before our March 15th Board meeting. At that point, I had no choice but to wait until the next meeting to properly notice it as a topic. Tyco/Johnson Controls failure to honor an existing agreement is not the Town’s failure, it is Tyco/Johnson Controls failure.

In July of 2021 the City of Marinette passed a resolution and reaffirmed it in August, stating they wanted no part of providing water to the Town, and literally told us in that resolution to look to the City of Peshtigo. Months later, their position has not changed. We are grateful that the City of Peshtigo remains a viable option and are wasting no time investigating it and all other options.

As to concerns regarding closed meetings, the need for closed session meetings is clearly defined in each and every compliant notice, for example: *‘§19.85(1)(g) of the Wisconsin Statutes for purposes of conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved’*. The board would be acting irresponsibly if we discussed litigation concerning Tyco/Johnson Controls in open session. I welcome the day when the Tyco/JCI water crisis has been resolved and we are able to conduct single monthly board meetings. Until then, I encourage all interested parties to avail themselves of the open monthly water committee meeting, as well as sign up for notices at townofpeshtigo.org for monthly comprehensive water reports. The information is free for the taking, it requires more effort than a Facebook post, but it also contains the truth.

At the Town’s initiation, multiple DNR sponsored Water Summit meetings have occurred in an effort to bring all parties together. Within this last year, the Town Board has had more public discussion on the PFAS water crisis and provided more information on its website than ever before. We all wish this would be over, and we all wish it would be easier. But the Town Board has the responsibility to do this correctly, and we are trying to the best of our ability to do that and to stay within the law in all our proceedings.”
