

From: Melnykovych, Andrew (PSC)
To: ["Mary Cromer"](#)
Subject: your comments in case 2016-00142 - Martin County Water District
Date: Friday, September 29, 2017 9:50:00 AM

Dear Ms. Cromer:

Thank you for your comments on the Kentucky Public Service Commission's investigation of the operating capacity of the Martin County Water District

Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration.

As you noted, the case number in this matter is 2016-00142. It would be helpful if you would please refer to it in any further correspondence.

The documents in this case are available at http://psc.ky.gov/PSC_WebNet/ViewCaseFilings.aspx?case=2016-00142.

RECEIVED

By Kentucky PSC at 11:04 am, Sep 29, 2017

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Andrew Melnykovych

Director of Communications
Kentucky Public Service Commission
502-782-2564 (direct) or 502-564-3940 (switchboard)
502-330-5981 (cell)
Andrew.Melnykovych@ky.gov

From: Mary Cromer [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 2:15 PM
To: PSC - Public Information Officer <PSC.Info@ky.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment to be submitted in 2016-142

Good afternoon,

Please find below a public comment letter to be submitted in the investigation numbered 2016-142.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best,
Mary Cromer

My name is Gary Ball and I am customer of the Martin County Water District. This letter is in reference to case number 2016-00142. It addresses the removal of water commissioners.

In a past hearing in this case, Martin County Judge/Executive Kelly Callaham was questioned about his appointments to the board and the manner in which he made appointments. I remember him referring to the professions of each board member and I particularly remember him stating that in his most recent appointment and I'm going on memory here ...but calling this person who he said "owed him a favor" and asked him to be a commissioner. This is how the political system here works.

The basis for my comment is that I hear from those in power that I should be more compassionate and understanding in that these people serve free of charge and criticizing them is unfair. While I understand their reasoning, I am aware that these folks can be compensated. That they aren't is not the issue. The fiscal court has the authority to do so. I have no problem with water board members receiving from \$3,600 to \$6,000 a year --and I think the majority of water customers will agree -- if they provide good oversight and attend training sessions to provide good oversight.

This water board has failed --- period. As a governing body, they have placed the water district in the mess it is in. Regardless of whether they're paid or not, they should be removed. What puzzles me is why they choose to stay onboard. If I were part of this --my name associated with overseeing the state's worst water district -- I would either work hard to change that, or simply resign.

In closing, I know what it's like to be on a board faced with a mess. I served one term on the Martin County Board of Education. We had a high school in crisis (listed among the bottom 10 statewide in test scores) and a horrible report from the state auditor's office in money that was misspent. Hard decisions had to be made -- decisions that ran against the grain in that old adage, "we don't do things like that here." We made the hard, tough decisions and our school system has benefitted.

A pastor friend of mine once said, "Change isn't changed until it's changed." Our water woes will be an issue in the upcoming election that begins next spring. As editor of the paper, I'm going to advocate compensating water board members and that the fiscal court require they attend training sessions and be compensated accordingly.

--

Mary Varson Cromer
Staff Attorney
Appalachian Citizens' Law Center
317 Main Street
Whitesburg, KY 41858





*Brian Cumbo
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 1844
Inez, KENTUCKY 41224

*Martin County Water District
387 East Main Street, Suite 140
Inez, KY 41224

*Martin County Water District
Martin County Water District
387 East Main Street, Suite 140
Inez, KY 41224