



Holland Board of Public Works

FAQs

General Election 2022 Ballot – Hillside Property Sale

In the 2022 General Election, City of Holland residents are asked to vote on the “Proposition To Authorize The Sale Of 4036 Hillside Trail, Laketown Township.” As the owner of the property, Holland Board of Public Works prepared these FAQ’s to clarify the ballot question, so that voters can make an informed decision.

The ballot question reads:

Shall the City of Holland be authorized under Holland City Charter Sections 4.17 and 12.19 to sell the surplus real property owned by the City of Holland known as 4036 Hillside Trail in Laketown Township, Allegan County, Michigan, tax parcel 03-11-021-014-00, consisting of approximately 23.95 acres, in a manner to be determined by the Holland Board of Public Works and the Holland City Council with proceeds from the sale used for the benefit of its water utility customers?

Who owns this property?

The property is owned within the water utility of Holland Board of Public Works, which is a part of the City of Holland.

Why is this on the ballot?

In summary, Holland City Charter requires a 3/5 majority vote from the public in order to sell property that is either owned by Holland Board of Public Works (Section 12.19) or waterfront property (Section 4.17).

When and why did Holland Board of Public Works acquire the property?

Holland Board of Public Works acquired the property in 2001 with the intention of securing space to build a second water treatment facility, should there be a need to expand water services to the south of Holland.

Would Holland Board of Public Works have a use for the property in the future?

The water system has grown and developed in ways that significantly reduce the likelihood that a second water plant will be needed. Recent investments like the secondary water transmission main on Lakewood Boulevard and a connection to the City of Wyoming's water system are projected to adequately support the needs of growth in the area.

Nevertheless, should the property be sold, Holland Board of Public Works would maintain an easement for an access point to Lake Michigan, where an underground intake line and connection to a future inland water treatment facility could be installed.

Why would Holland Board of Public Works propose to sell the property now?

Since the property is not being used in the provision of utility services, Holland Board of Public Works is required to pay property taxes. The annual taxes are about \$50,000. Additionally, there is a structure on the property that demands continual care and investment. By selling the property now, the utility can avoid the ongoing costs and still preserve a means to connect to Lake Michigan in the future if needed.

As a water utility customer, how would the proceeds of this sale benefit me?

Holland Board of Public Works is a not-for-profit community-owned utility. Customers benefit from having a highly reliable, well-maintained utility system and competitive rates. The proceeds of this sale would be invested into the water utility, ultimately controlling costs for customers as investments are made in the water system.

Where can I find more information about this topic?

The Declaration of Surplus Property and the Ballot Proposition for 4036 Hillside Trail were discussed at the July 25, 2022 Holland Board of Public Works Special Meeting and brought to City Council on August 3, 2022. Learn more in the meeting agendas, available at cityofholland.com under Agendas and Minutes.

