

**September 7, 2022**

**Aldersperson Barb Felde  
832 Center Ave.  
Sheboygan, WI 53081**

**Dear Aldersperson Felde:**

**I would like to request that you place my name in nomination and support my election to another three-year term on the Sheboygan Board of Water Commissioners.**

**I was elected to the Sheboygan Board of Water Commissioners in 1980 and have served as its President since 1981.**

**I am proud to be associated with the employees at the Sheboygan water utility. They are all dedicated to providing the best possible service to the Utility's customers.**

**Over the years, we have seen substantial growth in the city and, therefore, the water system. In addition, we have gone through many expansions and updates at the water plant due to growth, regulatory mandates, and nature itself. An example is our Ultraviolet disinfection system, which means our water is going through two disinfection processes. It is the largest system, of its kind, in the State of Wisconsin. We were one of the first utilities in Wisconsin to qualify for \$335,000 in WDNR grant monies to replace lead water laterals. The utility promptly implemented a lead water lateral replacement program which focused on any remaining lead laterals at daycares or schools. We also completed construction of the new water tower in the South Pointe Industrial Park and are now working on a new intake and pump station, which will supplement our existing plant, for many years to come. We have accomplished these things and more, while reducing the Utility's workforce, as well.**

**The result has been Sheboygan always being among the lowest, if not the lowest, in water rates for a Class "AB" category utility in the State of Wisconsin.**

**The Sheboygan Board of Water Commissioners has always had an incredibly good representation from various disciplines to provide sound management based on different areas of expertise. We currently have a financial person (myself), an individual with management and maintenance experience (Thomas Howe) and a person with water utility expertise (Richard Dale). This is an excellent mix, and the results speak for themselves.**

**My involvement over the years has been interesting, rewarding and, I believe, a benefit to the utility, its customers, and the City of Sheboygan.**

**I have always tried to maintain a proper perspective in employee disputes and have been called upon, by management and employees, to assist in resolving problems before they escalated.**

**I have also managed customer complaints when management was not able to provide satisfactory results. have been very vocal and outspoken concerning the water utility's financial affairs and have urged fiscal restraint over the years. The results are one of the most financially sound utilities in the State of Wisconsin.**

**There are still exciting new projects on the horizon such as the continuing automation of the water plant and the continuation of the lead water lateral replacement program, as funds become available. I would like to be a part of the continuing effort to maintain the Sheboygan Water Utility as one of the best in the state.**

**I would be proud to serve another three-year term on the Sheboygan Board of Water Commissioners and ask for your support. Letters have been submitted to all Alderpersons, as well as the Mayor, requesting their support.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Gerald R. Van De Kreeke,  
Certified Public Accountant**