

Peninsula Wastewater Initiative Update

Submitted by Dee Holody and Bill Clifton

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Wastewater Project Update and Public Input

Wednesday April 11, 2018 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Boston Township Hall

We are now almost 3 months into the Design Engineering. Please join us Wednesday, April 11, from 6-8pm, at the Boston Township Hall for a session with Stantec Consulting, who will be updating the Village on our wastewater project. Stantec will also provide an overview of the preliminary collection system layout and discuss how your property will tie into the main collection line. Stantec consultants, Gary Silcott and Dale Kocarek, will be on hand to talk with you individually to gather information on your current basement depth and sewage outtake pipe location. So if you are inclined, mosey down to your cellar before the session, measure your basement height and note at what level your sewage pipe exits the building. This information will be helpful to verify the preliminary estimated depth levels of the main collection pipes. This program is for those that live in the Wastewater Service District, or own property within the District, as Stantec will be discussing specifics of your property's connection to the main line. But all are welcome!

FAQ's on Sewers

As the wastewater project continues to move forward, many of you will have questions. Please watch for these FAQs to be posted on the Village website. For now, we would like to share some of the recent questions we have been receiving.

Why am I being charged a sewer fee when I have no sewer services yet?

It is not uncommon for a community to begin charging a sewer fee well before they have sewers to build a reserve for when the day comes. Unfortunately, the Village had never instituted a sewer fee and has no "nest egg" to fund preliminary or design engineering work. The current sewer fee of \$15 per month per addressed property is sufficient to satisfy the initial payback terms of the Ohio Water Department Authority loan to complete the Design Engineering.

Why are the residences and businesses, being charged the same, i.e. \$15 per month?

As advised by Stantec Consulting and our Village Solicitor, in instituting the initial sewer fee, Council decided that during the engineering phases, all users are receiving the same "benefit" or value. As a result, it was determined that all properties in the District must be treated equally at this point and charged the same sewer fee. The preliminary engineering report and design engineering are providing the same benefit, or value, to a resident as to a business. So for now, while we are in the engineering phases, every address will be charged the same \$15 per month. Once the system is constructed, the "benefit" for a resident vs a business vs a duplex, etc. is different due to the amount of waste the user is estimated to produce. As a result, at that time, it is expected that different categories of users will be paying different sewer fee amounts based upon their estimated sewer flow pursuant to EPA guidelines. These flow estimates are

referred to as “EDUs” or Equivalent Dwelling Units. EDUs will be calculated using EPA calculating charts for communities that do not have a central water system. As an example, a single-family dwelling will be one EDU, whereas a duplex will be two EDUs. EDU levels for restaurants and entertainment halls are based on max seating capacity, and EDU levels for industrial users are based on the number of employees. Libraries, churches and schools are each contained in other classifications in the EPA EDU guideline charts.

Can I refuse to pay this sewer fee?

No. In December 2017, Council passed Ordinance 24-2017 establishing Chapter 931 of our codified ordinances to establish a monthly sewer fee within the Wastewater Service District. There are provisions in this ordinance, as you will find with any municipal sewer fee, for late payment charges and property liens for delinquent accounts. Please contact the Village offices if you would like a copy of Ordinance 24-2017.

I am hoping to sell my house soon. Do I still have to pay this sewer fee?

The sewer fees will be charged quarterly, starting with the April 1 through June 30 quarter. Yes, you must make your payment each quarter. If you are in the process of or planning to sell your property, please familiarize yourself with Chapter 931, Section 931.05, Responsibility for Bills upon Sale of Property. Please contact the Village offices if you would like a copy of Chapter 931.

Last month's YCN said we will be charged \$15 per month per user. Does that mean each person in my household will be billed \$15 per month?

No, each person will NOT be charged \$15. The more accurate description for the fee, and as it is defined in the ordinance, is “\$15 per month per addressed property containing a building in the Wastewater Service District”. We apologize for any confusion the “per user” language contained in last month’s YCN may have caused.

Who do I call if I have questions?

Never hesitate to ask your questions! There are several people that can help. Contact any member of the Wastewater Core Team: Dee Holody, dholody@yahoo.com; Bill Clifton, cliftowh@hotmail.com; or Mary Booth, marymarybooth@yahoo.com. You can also contact John Stiegel, Village Fiscal Officer, or Martin Kuboff, Village Administrative Assistant at 330-657-2151.