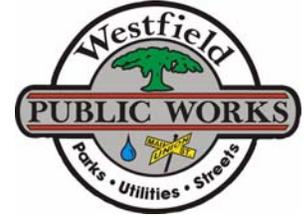


WESTFIELD PUBLIC WORKS



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December 7, 2006

RE: Public Meeting Number 1 for water and sanitary sewer extension

Dear Resident,

On Tuesday, December 5th the Public Works Department held a preliminary information meeting regarding the possible expansion of services in to the Farr Hills and Buena Vista subdivisions here in Westfield. During the meeting Kurt Wanninger introduced Ordinance 06-32. This ordinance establishes the procedure the Town uses for installation of utility services in existing residential areas. Renee Goff also gave a preliminary timeline as well as the items that need to occur for the Town to compile an accurate cost estimate for the project.

During the meeting there were also several good questions brought up by the residents.

- *What are the current water and sewer rates?*
Currently the water rate is a minimum charge of \$7.25 a month for 2,780 gallons of water. It is \$2.61 a month for each additional 1,000 gallons up to 5,000 gallons. Sanitary Sewer service is \$33.95 a month for customers using 5,000 gallons of water or less (Ordinance 4-16).
- *Will connection be required?*
The Town will not require connection at the time of installation. However, there are incentives for connecting and they are listed in Ordinance 06-32.
- *What will be the overall cost for Sewer and Water in the Farr Hills/Buena Vista Area?*
At this point it is too early to estimate cost. In order to establish accurate costs it is important to have a proper survey of the area. To complete a survey a Right of Entry form is very important to allow a survey crew to enter your property to perform the survey. Remember, the Right of Entry form does not obligate you to connect to the water and sewer services. It simply allows surveyors to gather information on your property. The Public Works Department will then use this information to establish an estimate of construction cost.
- *Will the Town allow a residence that has connected to the water main to maintain a private well?*
For a private well to be maintained, it would need to be disconnected from the house plumbing. If the private system were connected to the Town's water infrastructure cross contamination could occur. In order to ensure a safe water supply for the entire Town, all private wells should be disconnected. The Town recommends that wells that are not used be properly abandoned to protect the natural aquifer from possible contamination.

- *What will be the cost per individual for this project?*
Without accurate survey information the cost for this project is difficult to estimate. For this reason the Right of Entry form is very important. It allows surveyors to obtain accurate information that the Town can use to accurately estimate the cost of these main installations. The cost of this project per individual will be presented at the second public meeting.

It is important to note that by allowing surveyors on to your land, you are not agreeing to connect to these services.

- *How will the US 31 project impact my water and sewer services?*
At this time it is difficult to determine exactly how many houses will be affected by the proposed US 31 project. The Town has been in contact with INDOT, but final plans are not available at this time.
- *Is it possible to use one service without using the other?*
No. This project will involve the installation of both services. It is also important to note that sewer rates are determined by water usage.
- *Will the Town call the Health Department if I do not connect to the Water and Sewer?*
No, the Town will not call the Health Department. But please note that several incentives will not be available to those who choose to connect after the initial offering.
- *What must be done to abandon existing septic systems?*
Contact the Hamilton County Health Department at 776-8500. Ask for Jason LeMastor or Berry McNulty. They will explain the steps required by the Hamilton County Health Department.
- *Will the Town provide a list of contactors who can perform the connection to the water and sewer utilities?*
The Town will have a list of contractors who do this type of work available, but it is in no way an endorsement for a specific contractor.
- *What is the timeline for this project?*
The Engineering department anticipates survey to be complete within 3 months of receiving all of the Right of Entry forms. It will take approximately 3 to 5 months for design and permitting. If the survey begins soon, the installation could begin in the fall of 2007.

As stated before, obtaining the Right of Entry form is the most crucial step at this time. Without these forms the Public Works Department will not have accurate data and information that could improve the design, and affect the cost analysis.

Sincerely,



Renee Goff
Public Works Engineer