



Utility Transfer Fact Sheet

✓ Funding for Westfield improvements and lower debt

The \$91 million of proceeds from the utility transfer will be used to pay off 100% of the utility system's \$45 million of debt. The proceeds also will fund the **Westfield On the Move** - the City's infrastructure improvement initiative - that will provide much needed infrastructure investments for the Westfield community while mitigating tax increases. These projects include new streets, roundabouts, sidewalks and expansion of the Midland Trace Trail. Funding **Westfield On the Move** through property taxes would delay the improvements for years while raising living costs for our residents and businesses. The transfer also means the City of Westfield will receive more than \$2 million per year in property taxes from the utility, which currently does not pay property taxes. These funds can be used for schools and other budgetary needs.

✓ Creates Citizens Utilities of Westfield an efficient water, sewer and gas utility for the community's future

The transfer of Westfield Utilities to Citizens Energy Group provides a tremendous opportunity to secure our water and wastewater utilities with a trusted, experienced utility provider that will provide outstanding customer service, and operational savings to hold down rate increases forecast beyond 2016. The new Citizens Utilities of Westfield will have rates based on the operating costs and system investments necessary in only Westfield, not the costs and investments necessary in Indianapolis. While the Westfield City Council has already approved rate increases in each of the next five years, Citizens estimates it will be able to reduce rate increases about 16 percent by the year 2020.

✓ Water supply security to help Westfield grow

With access to nine well fields, three reservoirs and the White River, no water utility in Central Indiana is better positioned to provide water supply security for the people of Westfield. As the largest water supplier in Central Indiana, Citizens' ownership will allow for a more regional approach to water supply planning that will ensure a more sustainable water supply for Westfield and all of the communities that they serve. Citizens will make the system investments necessary to ensure water supply for the future, address environmental mandates related to wastewater collection and treatment, and solve urgent capital needs resulting from growth, while holding down utility rate increases.

(Over)

✓ Outstanding service and a smooth transition for Westfield customers

Citizens has a proven track record for providing outstanding customer service for newly acquired utility customers, including in Westfield. After acquiring the Westfield Gas system, Citizens provided customers with improved billing statements, access to budget billing, direct deposit, online bill payments and multiple payment sites in Westfield. Citizens Utilities of Westfield customers will enjoy the convenience of a combined gas, water, sewer and trash bill, with multiple payment options. A recent survey by Market Strategies International indicates nearly 90 percent of Citizens Gas of Westfield customers are satisfied with their service. Also, for the second straight year, Citizens Gas was recently named the top mid-sized utility in the Midwest for customer satisfaction in an annual survey by J.D. Power & Associates.

✓ Retention of Westfield employees

Citizens Energy Group and the City of Westfield have agreed that no Westfield employee will lose employment as result of the utility transfer. Citizens plans to provide pay and benefits to Westfield employees that are competitive with their current compensation package and that of similarly situated Citizens’ employees. Of course, employees also will need to complete pre-employment hiring requirements.

✓ Commitment to the community

Citizens is an outstanding community partner in Central Indiana, including in Westfield. Citizens supports community events in Westfield including the Chamber Golf Outing, the Lantern Awards, the Mayor’s Boy Scout Breakfast and activities at the Hamilton YMCA. An employee of Citizens serves on the Board of Directors of the Westfield Chamber of Commerce. The acquisition of the Westfield water and wastewater utilities will allow the utility to expand its commitment to reinvesting in the Westfield community.

✓ Locally accountable management

Citizens has a 125-year reputation for managing utility resources for the benefit of the customers and the communities that it serves. Citizens will report quarterly about our utility services to the Westfield City Council and will make regular reports to Westfield community groups. Further accountability will be ensured because Citizens Utilities of Westfield will be regulated by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC). Oversight also will be provided by the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor.

✓ Open approval process

This acquisition must be approved by the Westfield City Council, various Westfield boards and commissions, and the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. Citizens will participate in public meetings so all Westfield community stakeholders can fully understand the acquisition proposal.

✓ Informational Sessions

For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.westfield.in.gov> or attend a Town Hall Informational Meeting listed below.

Westfield High School Auditorium	Tuesday, October 2 nd	7pm-8:30pm
Carey Ridge Elementary School	Tuesday, October 9 th	7pm-8:30pm
Oak Trace Elementary School	Wednesday, October 17 th	7pm-8:30pm
Shamrock Springs Elementary School	Tuesday, October 23 rd	7pm-8:30pm