

Bob Mollette

3rd Ward Councilman

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August 24, 2009

Jim Kalb, Mayor
728 Second Street
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662

Re: Combined Sewer System Long Term Control Plan (Revised July 1, 2009) (LTCP)

The Combined Sewer System LTCP was originally prepared by W.E. Stilson Consulting Group and furnished to the City on September 19, 2006. This Plan was later revised by Strand Associates on July 1, 2009, submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) for approval, and a copy provided to Council members at the July 27, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting.

After reviewing the report, I am optimistic the City will in time take actions to address the evident, ongoing, and protracted conditions our residents in the Grandview Avenue area are encountering with raw sewage and basement flooding. My opinion, actions should have been taken immediately by the City to protect their citizens until a LTCP determination was established, and after five (5) years of studies and reports, the recurring recommendation is for the City to install backflow prevention devices, which still have not been done.

I am not convinced the City needs to make the only option recommended contingent on the approval process of the submitted LTCP report. In the report the City has already committed to the following Early Action Projects (EAPs): ATAD Digester Upgrade, North Moreland Sewer Rehabilitation of Munn's Run SSO, and Upgrade the Lawson Run Waste Water Treatment Plant for a total investment of \$10,050,000. I support our infrastructure investments but I am perplexed the LTCP report identified the Grandview Avenue Area Basement Back-up Prevention as the highest priority but the City has only tentatively budgeted the improvements contingent on the LTCP approval. I am requesting this basement back-up prevention to be initiated expeditiously. It is reasonable to expect a City government to respond to their citizens concerns by assuring them appropriate and timely actions are being taken to avoid further anxiety and legal actions within our community.

I believe Council needs additional information and discussions concerning the preemptive rate increases recommended (Item 3 - page 153 & Appendix H) in the LTCP report on the average residential customer. I also believe Council needs additional information and discussion concerning the significant impact on our neighbors and sewer customers living in the Village of New Boston (Item 3 - page 153). The LTCP report states *"The increases to New Boston customer sewer rates which will take their average customer well beyond high burden will in no way contribute funds to the development of New Boston's LTCP or implementation of subsequent projects recommended by such a document in New Boston's system."*

If you should have any questions or comments contact me.

Respectfully,



Bob Mollette, 3rd Ward Advocate and Representative on City Council

cc: Sudhir Desai, U.S. EPA (desai.sudhir@epa.gov)
Michael Jones, Solicitor
Richard Duncan, Wastewater Director
Jim Warren, Mayor Village of New Boston
Honorable Council Members
Jo Ann Aeh, Clerk (Record)