



GEAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Chardon Township Sewer Project Update

The Department of Water Resources has gathered the following information together for all those residents concerned about the details related to a public sewer being planned for the subdivision known as the Berkshire Heights Estates in Chardon Township. This public sewer system, which has been mandated by the EPA due to a significant number of failing septic systems, includes all the residents on Henning Drive, Helmet Drive, Olmar, Howard Drive between house numbers 10776 and 10954 and Thwing Road between 10774 and 11032.

We are currently in the preliminary phases for the selection of a location for the treatment plant. Currently the plan is to start construction in the spring of 2018 and have the system completed by the spring of 2019. We are also investigating several sources of potential funding to pay for the construction of the system. The intent is that all applicable sources of funding that we are aware of that would prove beneficial to the project will be investigated. With that being said we are currently looking at an assessment somewhere in the neighborhood of \$28k-\$30k per household. This assessment will be levied using the property tax system and will coincide with the term length of the debt used to construct the system. The assessments once they are determined will be communicated to the residents. Each resident will have the opportunity to pay the entire assessment at that time or allow it to go onto the property taxes. Each resident that pays for the assessment up front will avoid the interest charges associated with the financing of the debt to construct the system.

Once the system is ready to receive connections from the households within the sewered development the only upfront fees that will be required by Water Resources will be \$200 (\$150 inspection fee and a \$50 permit fee). A permit application will need to be filled out which will require information concerning who will be performing the work to achieve the connection. You may do it yourself or hire a contractor. If you choose to hire a contractor they will be required to be certified by this department. Our website (www.gcdwr.org) contains a list of certified installers. If your installer is not listed have them contact us for information on becoming certified. Either way the connection will need to be inspected. Excavation of the trench may commence before inspectors arrive but nothing can go into the ground without the inspector present. The costs to complete the connection are the homeowner's responsibility. You will be informed of the location of your connection to the sewer main on your permit. You will also be required to abandon your septic system. For information and requirements for this please contact the Geauga County Health District.

Once you are connected you will begin receiving bills from the department every two month or six times per year. We bill in arrears for service rendered. We currently bill on a flat rate system. The rate at which you will be billed has not yet been determined and will depend on the maintenance and operational needs of the system as well as the proportional requirements of the overall department.