

2022 Village of Genoa Sewer Rate Increase

In 2020, after years of planning and engineering, the Village of Genoa began a multi-million dollar generational overhaul of the sewer district serving Genoa, Clay Township, Clay Center, Allen Township and two Ohio Turnpike plazas. The following projects, totally more than \$3.8 million, were to be completed as part of this effort:

Phase 1:

- 2020-2021: Construction of a new filtration house at the sewer ponds (\$1.93 million)
- 2021-2022: Reconstruction of the system's central pump station near 9th Street (\$0.5 million)

Phase 2:

- 2022-2023: Reconstruction of four pump stations serving peripheral areas (\$1.4 million)

The Village has known for some time that a sewer rate increase would be necessary to pay new debts, but the exact amount would be determined by the specific scope of work offset by grant success. Knowing that a cost increase was coming to residents and customers, in 2020 Council decided to end recycling services and forgo an estimated \$8-11 monthly increase for village residents.

The following grants and low-interest loans were won by the Village during Phase 1:

- OPWC \$275,000 Grant - Filtration House
- OWPA \$1,869,400 Loan - Filtration House
- OPWC \$240,000 Grant - 9th Street Pump Station
- OPWC \$120,950 Loan - 9th Street Pump Station

This results in \$1,990,350 of debt to be paid by system customers for Phase 1 projects. Council ordered our engineering firm, CT Consultants, to conduct a rate study to determine the new rates. **The study concluded that rates would need to be raised \$6 per month for the average user.** This cost is reflected in a rate increase for metered users, and a monthly \$6 Infrastructure Charge for unmetered users. Essentially, customers who utilize Genoa's sewer system, but are not water customers, receive a \$6 Infrastructure Charge.

The sewer overhaul's Phase 2, the reconstruction of four peripheral pump stations, is expected to be put out for public bid in summer 2022. The village has already won a massive \$1.213 million grant from the Ohio BUILDS program, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. The project has a cost

estimate of \$1.4 million, if everything goes well that should leave less than \$200,000 for debt amortization.

The following chart, using the most recent Ohio EPA Residential Rate Survey readily available, shows the average sewer rate in peer communities. We have also shown the \$6 average increase for 2022 and beyond, under “Genoa 2022”. Thankfully, Genoa sewer rates remain well below the area’s average, and in fact seem to remain among the most affordable rates in the area.

The Village of Genoa takes pride in our efforts to stay aggressive in applying for infrastructure grants and keeping our sewer costs down. We know it is important for household budgets to offset our above average water bills, which are attributable to high treatment costs from the City of Oregon’s water treatment situation.

2018 EPA Survey Residential Sewer Rate, Genoa and Peer Districts

