



Woodridge Lake Sewer District

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February 25, 2019

Several months ago when you received your tax bill we gave you an update of the waste water connection between the Woodridge Lake Sewer District and the Torrington waste water plant. Now, six months later, we are still trying to resolve the necessary Inter-Municipal Agreement with the City of Torrington. The ability to resolve this agreement continues to be aggravated by the public vitriol for the project created by the Torrington Water Company's intervention back in July of 2016.

During the past three years, our project has persevered through eight public adversarial hearings in which our motivation, planning and veracity were questioned at every turn. As a result, the District has incurred major legal and engineering expenses which were not anticipated at the inception of the project. As of this date, unanticipated engineering expenses, legal expenses, and additional measures to protect the watershed as required by the Department of Public Health have cost an estimated \$2 million and has substantially delayed the start of our project. It is important to note that the final design of the pipeline project has become a moving target. We have also received demands for changes from the City of Torrington and the Department of Transportation, all contributing to additional costs.

Just a month ago we received the final plans and bidding documents for the project. They are described in three individual contracts. We have broken the project into pieces to encourage more bidders and to facilitate two construction crews, working in parallel, to meet the USDA timing constraints. We are now making the final preparations to go to bid. Our engineers have developed cost estimates ranging from the low side which would be close to the approved appropriation amount to the high side which would require additional funding.

The reality of the situation is that we have encountered major obstacles in our attempt to resolve the sewer dilemma. Most of these obstacles have had financial implications which were not anticipated at the beginning of the project. In the final analysis, depending on how the bids come in, we may be within the appropriated amount or, conversely, may need to secure additional funding in order to bring the project to fruition. Until the project bids are received we will not have the clarity of actual numbers. We will be communicating with you again when we have more information.

Sincerely,

The Woodridge Lake Sewer District Board of Directors