

March 26, 2018

Hello,

This letter is being written to all Long Beach Lakeshore Drive property owners. Most of us are aware that the LaPorte County Health Department has placed a moratorium on future septic installations/replacements/repairs on the north side of Lakeshore Dr. In addition, the County has adopted an ordinance for the entire county that before ANY home can be sold, the septic must successfully pass inspection.

To address this immediate septic issue, information is being gathered from state authorities, engineers and the Michigan City Sanitary District as to the feasibility of a sewer line down the length of Lakeshore Drive which would service the 300 Long Beach Lakeshore Drive homes; (150 on the north side and 150 on the south side). Please note that estimates are being gathered for a sewer system for the entire town, but due to the immediate need of those on north LSD, we are proposing doing LSD first. We would like to convey the idea that it will be a decision of the town (somehow) whether or not to go forward with the rest of the town. While the town ultimately has the authority to make a decision regarding whether there will be sewers, we are going to ensure that any decision will be an informed one that includes input from affected homeowners. Homeowners that are not served by the public sewer will not pay for the installation of the LSD line. Homeowners served by the line would pay a monthly fee and a capital charge for the installation of the line.

The most cost effective plan would be the placement of a low pressure sewer line down LSD. This would be a direct bore procedure under the town right of way thereby eliminating tearing up the road. A hookup would be provided to the property line of each of the 300 homes. The homeowner would be responsible for their own grinder pump and connection to the provided hookup. Estimated cost for grinder pump and connection is \$6,000.00 - \$10,000.00. In addition, homeowners will be responsible for the necessary upkeep and maintenance of the equipment and connection to the public sewer.

Once construction begins on LSD, we are hopeful that it can be completed within 8-10 months with the work to begin after Labor Day thereby avoiding inconvenience during the summer. Homeowners will then have 24 months (this number is a preliminary estimate) to make their connections to the line and disconnect their current system.

The sewage would be transferred to the Michigan City Sanitary District for treatment. The MCSD would own and maintain the main public sewer line. The homeowner would be responsible for hooking up to the line.

The positive effects of this project would be the elimination of any possible pollution to the lake from failing septics, and an increase in property values by eliminating any Health Department present or future moratoriums.

The downside is the obvious cost which would only be borne by LSD homeowners.

Preliminary estimates from the engineers are project costs of three million dollars (\$3,000,000.00). This could be financed with a State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan with a 30 year payback at 2.5% annual interest. This would equate to an approximate amortization cost of \$40 per month to the 300 LSD property owners. In addition, there would be an estimated monthly sewer usage bill of \$37.00 to MCSD. This is based on 7000 cu ft of usage, \$15.73 meter charge plus \$3.08/1000 cu ft of usage. Depending on usage, your cost could be more or less than the average. There will be a \$23.83 minimum charge. If you turn your water off in the winter months, there will be no usage charge but the monthly capital charge will remain.

The following are a few questions/answers you may be asking:

- **Must we connect to the public sewer system and if so, why?**

If a residence, business or any other structure with plumbing is located within 300 feet of a sewer collection line, by law the municipality may mandate that it be connected to the system. However, if your property is located on a body of water such as a stream, river or lake, you may be mandated to connect if your property line is located within 300 feet of collection line.

- **Where does the District get its authority to force property owners to use the system?**

Indiana Code Title 13 (Environment), Article 26 (Regional Water, Sewage and Solid Waste Districts), Chapters 1-26, originally passed into law in the late 1990's, grants authority to each County to create one or more regional sewer, utility, or solid waste districts and provides the legal framework that governs how they operate. The law reflects a long-standing policy to promote the development of utilities in rural communities to make them more attractive places to live, work, raise families and locate businesses. The policy is also driven by the need to address the growing number of aging in-ground septic systems that are failing and which result in the intrusion of harmful chemicals and human waste byproducts into our fresh water resources, streams, lakes and aquifers.

The authors of the law also recognized that building public sewers is very expensive and that in order to keep the monthly sewer service fees as low as possible, all eligible structures on properties located near the sewer system should be connected in order to spread the costs among the greatest number of property owners.

- **What are my options if I don't want to connect to the sewer?**

If you live north of LSD and your septic fails, your only other option is to "pump and haul". This would require you to cap off your septic field from your septic tank so that nothing leaks out of your septic tank. Every time it fills, which could be quite often during peak season, you must have it pumped and hauled away.

We hope this letter gives everyone a little better understanding of the project being considered. No action has yet been decided. There will be a public hearing in the near future to fully discuss this proposed project and to get public input. It is not yet known if there is an appetite to sewer the whole town, but there are homeowners on LSD who need immediate relief. If we were to start the process on this project tomorrow, it would be 18 months before we had a sewer on LSD. A preliminary engineering report and IDEM approval have to take place before construction can begin. There has been much misinformation disseminated in the community, but this letter is an attempt to let the LSD property owners know the facts.

We welcome any questions and/or comments. Joy is a member of the Town Council and John is a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals. HOWEVER, this letter is NOT directed or approved by the Long Beach Town Council. It is sent in our own personal capacity as residents who have attended numerous meetings with the Town engineers and the MCSD officials for guidance as to how to attack the present situation.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

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