

To: Customers of the West Middlesex/Shenango Township Sewer System
From: Robert F. Lark, Borough Councilman
Subject: **Incorrect Information in The Herald**
Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2019

In the Monday, February 25th edition of The Herald on the top right side of page one (1), there was a headline that "Monthly Sewer Bills would rise to \$87.....Costs Becoming Clearer for \$18 million Shenango--WM upgrade," and the first sentence in the article said "Monthly sewer bills in West Middlesex and Shenango Township are projected to rise more than 50%." In regard to sewer customers in the Borough of West Middlesex:

This statement of a 50% increase to sewer customers in the Borough of West Middlesex is ABSOLUTELY INCORRECT!!!

Sewer user fees may and probably will rise in Shenango Township, but there is no projection or proposal to raise sewer user fees in the Borough of West Middlesex! And, if there is a change in your sewer user fees, you will learn about this matter from your Borough Government and not have to be informed about it in The Herald!

When the joint Sewage Disposal Treatment Plant was built in the early 1990's on Campground Road, the Borough of West Middlesex paid 48% of the cost of that treatment plant, and the Township of Shenango paid 52% of the cost of that treatment plant. Each month, sewer customer in the Borough of West Middlesex pay \$27.40 toward the cost of that debt, and the Borough Government pays \$8,000 toward the cost of that debt each month. And, that debt will be paid off on/or before the Summer of 2029!

There are three (3) Phases to the sewer expansion proposals in Shenango Township, with Phase One (1) being additional sewer lines, Phase Two (2) being additional sewer lines, and Phase Three (3) being improvements at the Sewage Treatment Plant. Borough of West Middlesex is not affected by Phase One (1) and Phase Two (2), but it is affected by Phase Three (3) which is improvements at the Sewage Treatment Plant. Those improvements are projected to cost one million dollars, and the Borough Government will be responsible for some of that amount!

However, the exact cost has not been determined, the Borough Government's share has not been determined, and the year of those improvements has not been determined. Work of previous Borough Governments, and the current Borough Government have saved money in the Sewer Savings Account and have earned interest on those savings, and it is the desire and the hope of the Borough Government that those funds will cover some if not all of the costs associated with the improvements at the Sewage Treatment Plant! Those improvements and the cost of those improvements is when there may or may not be a change in the sewer user fees in the Borough of West Middlesex.

The bottom line is that in the Borough of West Middlesex, sewer user fees **ARE NOT INCREASING by 50%** as reported in The Herald on Monday, February 25th! And, if there are any changes in your sewer user fees, you will learn about it from your Borough Government.