



March 2, 2020

Dear Residents:

The Village has accepted a proposal from BS&A Software to purchase new fund accounting software. This upgrade brings us in-line with most other municipalities. The BS&A product was selected because of recommendations received from other municipalities, the simplicity of the software, the company's superior support and the general familiarity of the software throughout municipal environments. The Council also views this upgrade as somewhat of an "insurance policy." In the event of an anticipated – or unanticipated – change in personnel, the software will allow the Village to maintain its accounts with minimal interruption.

The Village Council has decided to wait until the completion of the Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater (SAW) Grant project before addressing the water and sewer rates. It is anticipated that the 3-year SAW Grant project will be completed this fall. As you may recall, the SAW Grant covers 90% of the cost to evaluate the current water/sewer systems and includes cleaning, mapping and preparation of related reports. The Grant also covers the development of a capital improvement plan to address any recommended short and/or long-term maintenance that might be required in order to maximize the life of the system. This information will be valuable to the Council in addressing any potential rate changes.

I'm sure most have noticed that the St. Mary School construction project is pretty much completed and the changes look fantastic! Hopefully, many of you have had the opportunity to tour the new facilities. Congratulations to all who were involved in this remarkable achievement. Many thanks also to those who contributed financially to make it all possible. The Village will be working with the Parish on renovations to Elm Street directly North of the school. The street is in need of repair and the hope is to replace the asphalt, add curbing to help alleviate water run-off onto the playground and incorporate additional parking. The Village is very blessed to have such a great relationship with St. Mary Parish.

Troy Miller has resigned from the Village Planning Commission due to his relocation to the city of Grand Rapids. I would like to personally thank Troy for his input and efforts on behalf of the Village, especially in regards to the Cruise-In car show. Good luck Troy!

Think spring – it will be here soon!

Sincerely,

Dean Kohagen, President
Village of Westphalia