

Village of Bentleyville

UTILITIES MINUTES January 16, 2019

ATTENDEES

- Ryan Rubin, Chair
- Terry Hemmelgarn
- Alex Goetsch
- Ken Kvacek
- Kathleen Hale
- Kathleen Esposito
- Mayor Spremulli

Residents:

Rachel Medhurst and Tim Moran

Summary:

Residents of Chagrin Valley Trails reported complaints regarding increases to already high water/sewer bills. After conversation with Village Engineer Jeff Filarski and additional research, it was concluded there is little Bentleyville can do to combat such utility rates charged by Chagrin Falls. Chagrin Falls services numerous communities, beyond Chagrin Valley Trails and/or Bentleyville. Some of the additional communities reportedly include Chagrin Falls Township, Moreland Hills and South Russell.

The recent increases impacted all users of such services. Bentleyville residents, like all non-Chagrin Falls village residents, pay a 25-percent premium for their water and sewage. This year, costs for all users increased by 5 percent, which Chagrin Falls Village Council voted by ordinance in 2016. Additionally, non-Chagrin Falls Village residents saw an increased meter charge, due to new digital meter readers.

More than 100 homes in Bentleyville, including those in the Chagrin Valley Trails, receive water and sewer services from the Chagrin Falls. They must receive both services from Chagrin Falls and cannot choose only one. Other Bentleyville residents receive water service from the Cleveland Division of Water and sewage service from the city of Solon. Specific to Chagrin Valley Trails, the decision to use Chagrin Falls for water and sewer was made by developers of the neighborhood. According to the Village Engineer, the cost to connect Chagrin Valley Trails to Cleveland water and Solon sewer would likely cost far more and is not feasible.

Utilities appreciated the community involvement and attendance at the meeting. Utilities also provided general recommendations to assure that people are not wasting water given the already high rates, and such standard measures include but are not limited to assuring that toilets are not

Village of Bentleyville

running and that leaks are not present. Utilities also encourage any concerned resident to attend Chagrin Falls council meetings to further address this issue.

Utilities also mentioned House Bill 602, a bill sponsored by then State Rep. Mike Duffey, R-Worthington, which died in committee last session. The bill would have required cities to charge residents and nonresidents the same price for water, and would penalize those providers that charged higher rates to nonresidents by cutting off state funding. The bill was opposed by Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and Chagrin Falls Mayor William Tomko.

In addition to the discussion regarding water and sewer, Utilities continues to pursue repair of utility box covers with AT&T, Spectrum, and First Energy. Also, Utilities is awaiting a quote from First Energy for a few area lights for the Village's Park. A few years ago, furniture in the pavilion was stolen. Some lighting may deter such activity. Non-LED lighting was previously estimated by First Energy at \$1,500 per light, and a local resident mentioned the possibility of funding and or contributing funds in support of such lighting. First Energy has not yet provided a quote for its current LED lights.

Ryan Rubin
Bentleyville Council