

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE WATER PETITION PROCESS

The Hamilton County Commissioners have the power under Section 6103 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) to install water mains in the unincorporated portions of Hamilton County under the Petition or Resolution Process. The Petition Process requires all (100%) property owners to sign the Petition; few Petitions meet this requirement. To investigate the feasibility of a waterline extension, the County uses the Resolution Process; a majority of ownership is not a requirement for the Commissioners to approve or contract for the installation of the water main. Under the Resolution Process, it is preferred to have at least a minimum 50% of benefited property owners representing a minimum 50% of frontage. Although the Commissioners have the power to install water mains, in most cases approval by a majority of property owners who own a majority of the roadway frontage is required.

When a property owner(s) sign a water petition he/she is requesting that the Hamilton County Commissioners, through the Department of Public Works, install an 8-inch water main across their entire roadway frontage so they might obtain domestic water service and fire protection. The property owner(s) are also stating that they are willing to pay for the County's costs to plan and construct the water line extension.

Should a majority petition be received, each property owner will be invited to an informational meeting in the community. Assuming positive feedback, we would send each owner a tentative assessment letter and notice of Public Hearing. Should the Board of County Commissioners grant the petition and construct the project final assessment letters would be mailed to the owners. Upon notification of final costs, payment can be made in cash or be assessed on their tax bill for twenty (20) years, divided into forty (40) payments. When the original amount is placed on the tax bill for twenty (20) years, with interest, the original amount doubles (historical average). Once the choice is made to place the assessment on the tax bill, payment of the cash amount cannot be made.

An average cost of \$45/lf of frontage for each side of the road may be used to approximate the cost of installing an 8-inch water main (\$90 per lf of project). In case of panhandle lots and lots with less frontage than allowed by zoning, they will be assessed at zoning width. Large lots may receive "benefit assessments" based on current zoning development potential.

EXAMPLES:

1) Mr. Jones has 128.37 lineal foot of roadway frontage.

$128.37\text{L.F.} \times \$45.00 = \$5,776.65$ cash price, however Mr. Jones chooses to place the assessment on his tax bill for twenty (20) years. The original cash amount will approximately double, depending on the interest rate $\$5,776.65 \times 2 = \$11,553.30$ which is divided by forty (40) payments increasing the original property tax bill by \$288.83 for twenty (20) years, forty (40) payments.

2) Mr. Smith has a panhandle lot with a 20 foot wide driveway fronting the roadway. The minimum residential zoning requirement for that Township is 100 feet. Mr. Smith's assessment cost will be $(100\text{L.F.} \times \$45) = \$4,500.00$ and he chooses to place it on his property tax bill. The final cost will be $\$4,500.00 \times 2 = \$9,000.00$ divided in forty (40) payments increasing the original property tax bill by \$225 for twenty (20) years.

Should you have any questions about the process please feel free to contact Mr. Mohammad Islam at 946-4757 or Ms. Ileana Abot at 946-4755, Monday thru Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.