Village of Hillcrest

Sanitary Sewer Project Summary – DCEO Grant Project

Proposed Project: The proposed project is for construction of a sanitary sewer along the following routes within the Village of Hillcrest (see Figure 1):

- River Road from Scott Avenue to Ramona Avenue
- Ramona Avenue from River Road to Errett Road

The proposed sewer will connect to the City of Rochelle sewer just west of Kyte Creek near the intersection of Scott Avenue and River Road.

Project Funding: There are several funding sources which will be utilized for the improvements. Village officials were able to secure a \$100,000 grant from the City of Rochelle to construct the sewer from the City of Rochelle's existing sewer under the Kyte Creek to the intersection of Scott Avenue and River Road. Another \$100,000 grant from the State of Illinois will pay for construction of sewer along portions of River Road. A \$450,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development (DCEO) will pay for portions of the project along River Road and Ramona Avenue. The total estimated project cost for this portion of the project is \$1,011,600. Once all grant money is applied, the cost to the Village is \$361,600. The Village plans to borrow this money from the First National Bank in Rochelle. Money for repayment of this loan will be through user fees generated by water and sewer bills.

Who must connect? Properties where the residents of the property meet the Low to Moderate Income (LMI) criteria must connect and will have their connection paid for as part of the project. See below for information regarding LMI eligibility. For owners within this area who do not meet the LMI criteria, connection to the system will only be required if the property's septic system is failing. The condition of the system must be assessed by a licensed professional. For property owners not meeting the LMI requirements, the sewer service will be constructed to the edge of the public right of way. The owner will then be responsible for employing a licensed contractor to install and connect the service from the right of way to the residential plumbing system.

What will sewer cost me?

- For residents of the Village who use Village water but do not connect to the sewer system, there will be an additional \$10.00 per month charge on your utilities bill for system capital improvements. There will be no other costs.
- LMI users within the DCEO grant funded area will receive a monthly sewer bill based on metered water usage. For typical users, this bill will be \$12 to \$18 per month. Users of significantly more or less water will see bills outside of this typical range.
- Homeowners who connect to the system, but do not meet the criteria for LMI will be required to pay the usage fees discussed above (approximately \$12 to \$18 per month) plus a one-time \$700 connection fee. This fee can be paid over a five year period at 0% interest. The cost for construction of the sewer service will also be the responsibility of the homeowner. This cost can vary significantly based on site conditions. The Village recommends talking directly with a sewer contractor to get an idea of what options you may have and approximate costs for construction.

LMI Eligibility Information: Funds will be available to pay the cost of connecting Low-to-Moderate (LMI) income households served by the CDAP grant-funded sewer project to the new sewer. Households are considered to be LMI if their annual household income is at or below the following limits:

- For a household of one person, \$39,800 in annual household income
- For a household of two persons, \$45,450 in annual household income
- For a household of three persons, \$51,150 in annual household income
- For a household of four persons, \$56,800 in annual household income
- For a household of five persons, \$61,350 in annual household income
- For a household of six persons, \$65,900 in annual household income
- For a household of seven persons, \$70,450 in annual household income
- For a household of eight or more persons, \$75,000 in annual household income

"Household income" is considered to be the total gross annual income of everyone over the age of 18 living in the housing unit (which may be either a single family home or an apartment). If, for example, someone is renting a room in a single family home, that person's gross annual income would be added to gross annual income of the other people living in the home to calculate the total "household income" for that address. Properties owned and occupied by LMI households will have priority for the service connection subsidy but rental properties occupied by LMI household may also be eligible.

Residents of the area to be served by the CDAP grant-funded sewer project will apply for the free service connection and will be kept informed of the application process by the Village of Hillcrest. As part of the application process, applicant households will be asked to provide proof of identification (such as a valid driver's license or a social security card); if applicable, proof of ownership of their home (such as a copy of their Real Estate tax receipt); and verification of their current income. Examples of income verification documents include:

- Form SSA-1099 Social Security Current Benefit Statement
- The most recent Form 1099-R Distribution from Pension, Annuities, Retirement, IRA's etc.
- Current pay stubs

When will construction start? It is estimated that the project will begin in the late summer/early fall of 2015 and will be largely completed by the middle of summer 2016.

Who should I contact with questions? For questions related to the design of the project, you can contact Jim Sparber with Baxter & Woodman (815-444-3385), the design engineers for this project.

