

Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. (B&L)
Proposed Findley Lake Sewer District
Additional Information
Date: 10/16/23

Budgeting:

The budget was prepared using conservative estimates – meaning that costs were budgeted higher than anticipated. The budget prepared by B&L used data from similar projects and actual costs from contractors. The construction budget accounts for recent and projected future inflation and also includes a 30% contingency allowance. The construction budget represents a maximum amount that the Town can spend of \$26.1 million.

The operating and maintenance and capital debt costs are estimated to be \$110 per month cost per equivalent dwelling unit. This includes \$60,000 per year for asset replacement and reserve savings. The \$110 per month is the maximum that can be charged for the first year of operation. If costs are lower than anticipated, or if grants funds are higher than projected, the initial monthly amount will be lower than \$110. We believe that it is likely the initial monthly cost will be less than \$110 per month.

Construction Grants:

Currently, the funding opportunities for construction of infrastructure grants are very favorable. The Town of Mina already qualifies for NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation Hardship, which means the project will receive 50% grant and 0% interest loan for 30 years. Other federal and state grants are available if the proposed district passes, however they can only be applied for if the district is formed. It is anticipated that a minimum of 75% construction grant funding will be received on the project.

Environmental Review:

A New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) was completed. It was determined that this project will not have any significant adverse environmental impacts. The project is actually well supported by all involved environmental related agencies. The process has been completed in public sessions and a copy of the SEQR is on the Town of Mina's website.

Future Expansion of District:

The district could be expanded in the future but any expansions would be required to go through the same process with public input that is occurring for this proposed district.

Benefits of Public Sanitary Sewer vs. Privately Owned Septic Systems:

A municipal sewer system will provide a greater water quality benefit on Findley Lake than the replacement of septic systems. New engineered septic systems **will not** reduce nutrient and phosphorus loadings the way a municipal sewer system will. According to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and US Environmental Protection Agency, to improve the water quality in Findley Lake nutrient and phosphorus loadings from septic systems must be eliminated and **the only way** to do this is a municipal sewer system. A municipal sewer system will have a far less initial capital investment by residents as compared to the replacement of septic systems.

Additional questions can be addressed to Barton & Loguidice Engineers Matthew Zarbo or Andrew Meyerhofer at 716-436-7857.