



July 19, 2018

Dear Village Resident:

The purpose of this letter is to update you regarding the status of wastewater treatment in the valley. Currently, Butler is faced with Final Findings and Orders from the Ohio EPA, and are in the process of designing a new state of the art wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The Bellville WWTP is in significant non-compliance with the Ohio EPA, is well past its useful life cycle, will need to be replaced in the near future to meet anticipated treatment limits, and produces odors that have impacted residents, elementary students, and youth leagues for too long. In the past, both Villages have addressed their issues independently without looking at a more regional approach, now is a perfect time to change that. Therefore, over the past several weeks, we have been discussing the option of combining our treatment into one facility owned and operated by the Village of Butler and located between the two communities. Recently we took those discussions to the next level and held a meeting with the Ohio EPA in Columbus to determine if they would support the concept, and more importantly, help us finance the work. We came away from that meeting more confident than ever that a regional approach to this issue is the most viable option financially and for the environment.


With regards to funding, we feel that a significant portion of the work has a realistic chance to receive principal forgiveness (grant) from the Ohio EPA with the balance paid through a 30-year 0% interest loan. In addition, having a larger customer base for one facility reduces both the debt service and operation and maintenance fees for each customer. Our plan is to submit an application for the Ohio EPA grant funds at the end of August, and we should receive preliminary notification of our funding status in October. Each community will be responsible for paying their share of the debt service fee with full billing authority for their respective customers. We will be able to tie down final fees for each customer once grant funding has been determined.

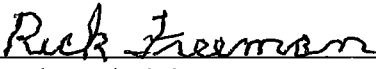
The second primary benefit of a regional approach is the opportunity to clean up the Clear Fork River. By locating the wastewater plant between the two Villages, we can also connect both the Mobile Home Park and High/Middle School. The end result is that four (4) wastewater treatment facilities that are either inadequate, outdated or obsolete will be replaced with one state-of-the-art treatment facility, which will reduce pollution to our scenic valley and river.

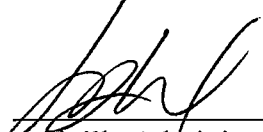
We are very early in the planning stages for this option, and are looking for your feedback. There is space provided below for your questions/comments. Please return them to the appropriate Village Hall. Our plan is to prepare a monthly newsletter with updates regarding the project status and responses to questions and concerns.

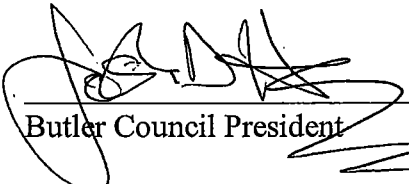
The bottom line is that both communities will be required to construct new wastewater treatment plants to meet Ohio EPA treatment limits. That time is now for Butler, and Bellville is not far behind. By being proactive and working together, we can save money, remove the odor issues, and help clean up the Clear Fork River.



Butler Mayor


Bellville Mayor


Butler Administrator


Bellville Administrator


Butler Council President


Bellville Council President

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TO THE APPROPRIATE VILLAGE HALL

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Question/Comment: _____
