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RECEIVED
NORTHWESTERN WATER
AND SEWER DISTRICT

December 11, 2018

NORTHWESTERN WATER & SEWER DISTRICT
PO BOX 348
BOWLING GREEN, OH 43402

Re: Rossford Storm Water Utility
351 JENNINGS RD

Effective January 2019

In 2017, Rossford City Council passed Ordinance 2017-75 creating a Storm Water Utility that will allow for the collection of fees to provide for maintaining and improving the storm water system within the City of Rossford. As State and Federal laws and regulations have increased on the handling of storm water collected and directed into nearby rivers and streams, and as Rossford's storm water infrastructure has aged, the cost of operating the storm water system has risen dramatically. City Council has determined that it is no longer feasible to take all of the funds required to service the storm water system from dollars available for general government operations.

The Northwestern Water & Sewer District (NWWSD) has been contracted by the City of Rossford to be our billing agent for this utility. Beginning in January 2019, you will see a new itemized charge on your water/sanitary sewer bill entitled "Storm Water Utility." While the charge will appear on the NWWSD water/sewer bill, this is a City of Rossford fee. If you are not currently receiving a bill from NWWSD, you will receive a new monthly bill from them for only the storm water utility.

The basis of this fee is an Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU), which is a measure of impervious surface area (an area that does not absorb rain). An ERU is equivalent to 2,500 square feet of impervious area, such as (but not limited to): driveways, parking lots and rooftops.

An ERU can be calculated by taking the total square footage of impervious area and dividing it by 2,500 square feet. This will give you the ERU per property. The cost per ERU established in Rossford Municipal Code 935.05 (e) is \$4.00/month/ERU. The baseline ERU's for non-residential properties were established using analysis of aerial photographs. The ERU for your property is 0.2.

Rossford Municipal Code Section 935.12 (b) establishes a Storm Water Credits program that allows non-residential customers to reduce the ERU's for the property through the utilization of best management practices for storm water, including but not limited to, detention ponds, retention ponds, buffer strips, etc. The owner will need to make application to the City to receive approval for these credits. The application form can be found online at <http://rossfordohio.com/city/storm-water-utility/>.

If you have concerns over the calculation of the ERU's for your property you may contact the City at 419-666-0210, extension 235 or via email at stormwater@rossfordohio.com and request the explanation for your ERU calculation. Please see the reverse side of this letter for information on some of the most frequently asked questions regarding this new storm water utility established by the City of Rossford.

Respectfully,

Edward J. Ciecka
Interim City Administrator

Rossford Ohio, Storm Water Utility 2019

Why a Storm Water Utility?

Aging infrastructure, flooding issues and increased regulatory requirements have prompted the City to develop a Storm Water Utility (SWU). This utility will allow the City to maintain its storm water infrastructure, to comply with regulatory rules, to deal with localized flooding issues and to relieve the general fund of storm water related costs.

What problems exist with the storm water system?

As rain falls on undeveloped areas, it is either absorbed into the ground or slowly runs off and dissipates. Rooftops and paved areas prevent water from being absorbed and create a faster rate of runoff. To prevent localized flooding and erosion problems, the city's storm water system collects this rain water and discharges it into nearby ditches, creeks or the Maumee River.

What is the water quality issue?

In 1999, the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued new storm water regulations that require local communities to control storm water runoff. The City is required to implement municipal storm water programs that will reduce storm water pollutant discharge to the "maximum extent practicable." Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent storm water runoff from naturally soaking into the ground. Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, road salt and other pollutants and flow into the storm sewer system or directly into any body of water. Anything that enters a storm sewer is discharged untreated into nearby waterways that are used for fishing, swimming or to provide drinking water to our region. The Ohio EPA is the state agency charged with monitoring local governments' efforts to prevent this pollution from entering our rivers and lakes. Locally, all runoff in the Maumee River basin eventually drains to the Maumee River and then to Lake Erie.

What is a Storm Water Utility?

Since 1999, the City of Rossford has depended on its "general fund" to pay for storm water issues and compliance costs. This diverts funds away from other city services such as police, street repair or improvements. The storm water utility will be an *enterprise fund* and money collected for this fund can only be used for storm water related costs. A Storm Water Utility is just like any other utility (i.e. electric, gas, water and sanitary sewer). The utility is an agency within the City responsible for providing the service of an expanded, improved and better-maintained storm water system as well as compliance with State and National water quality standards. The utility charges fees for the use of the system by those who contribute runoff. The fee will be charged on a monthly basis on your utility bill from Northwestern Water and Sewer District starting in January 2019 as approved by City Council.

How are commercial/industrial properties charged?

Commercial/Industrial customer is defined as all developed commercial, institutional, industrial, government or others with impervious surface areas. The stormwater fee is based on the amount of area that is covered with concrete, asphalt, compacted gravel and rooftops along with any other impermeable surface. Commercial rates will be based on the number of ERUs calculated by dividing the impervious surface area by 2,500 square feet. This will develop an ERU number for the property. The commercial charge is \$ 4.00 per ERU per month. Thus, dividing the impervious surface area by 2,500 and multiplying by \$ 4.00 will give the monthly commercial stormwater charge.

Commercial/Industrial Credits Available

Rossford Municipal Code Section 935.12 (b) establishes a Storm Water Credits program that allows non-residential customers to reduce the ERU's for the property through the utilization of best management practices for storm water, including but not limited to, detention ponds, retention ponds buffer strips etc. The owner will need to make application to the City to receive approval for these credits. The application form can be found online at <http://rossfordohio.com/city/storm-water-utility/>.