

# Sewer Works

Newsletter of the Hull  
Permanent Sewer Commission

Summer 2017



## Message from the Director of Wastewater Operations

Over the past six months, work has been focused on preparing a Fiscal Sustainability Plan and in complying with the EPA Order on Consent in reporting and meeting certain deliverables for the sewer system. We completed work under the Asset Management Grant and received reimbursement of about \$40,000 for this work. As part of the asset management program, we're using a software known as Utility Cloud that includes a Geographical Information System (GIS) map of most of our sewer system, along with information on the sewers, manholes, pump stations and force mains. The intent is to eventually compile all older sewer plans and have them linked to the appropriate Utility Cloud asset for ease of reference. As we collect more information on each asset,

### Fiscal Sustainability/Asset Management Plan Highlights

- Approximately 85% of our system is mapped in Utility Cloud
- Approximately 10,000 feet of sewer was cleaned and inspected
- Condition assessments have been made on all sewers inspected
- Condition assessments and inventory of most Wastewater Treatment Facility equipment have been completed
- Collection and treatment system assets have been ranked based on risk and criticality to form basis of capital improvement program (CIP)
- Funding for CIP will be through state grant and funding programs and future sewer enterprise account user rates
- Capital program will be presented to the public soon

this information will also be available and updated on Utility Cloud. We intend to create work orders through the software to allow better tracking of problem areas, unauthorized discharges, perform maintenance, and other such reports that will help maintain the system. The plan will also include monitoring, tracking, and controlling excess flows from groundwater, storm flow, and tidal water in our system.

John J. Struzziery, P.E.

Director of Wastewater Operations

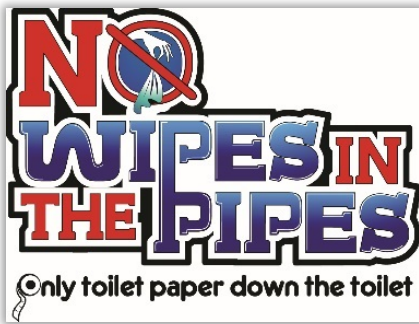
## Sewer User Rate

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*The Sewer Department operates as an enterprise fund and is required to provide revenue sufficient to cover operating and capital expenditures. The fiscal year 2018 budget was approved at \$4,431,834. The major components of the budget are Debt Service: \$1,220,257, Contracted Services for Wastewater Operations: \$1,808,694, Energy costs: \$281,000, Annual Capital and Repair costs: \$538,010, and Administrative costs: \$583,873.*

*To support the approved budget, the rate for the upcoming year will be \$12.00 per 100 cubic feet (CCF) and is reflected in the August billing. This is an increase of \$0.56 per CCF or a 4.9% increase. The impact of this rate on the average homeowner using 84 CCF is \$47 per year. Note: One CCF equals 748 gallons.*

**Reminders - Please help us keep costs down by doing your part - Things that you can do include:**



*Wipes, rags and other debris not intended to be in the sewer even if labeled as Disposable and Flushable, are a major source of sewer backups and clogged pipes.*



*Wipes create blockages in pipes- Remember: Nothing down the toilet but the 3 Ps- Paper-Pee-and Poo.*



*Fats, oils & grease (FOG) also clog sewers. Do your part by not disposing of FOG down the drain; rather, can it and let it solidify, and then dispose in the trash.*

### **What else we've been doing:**

#### **Capital Planning/Capital Projects**

- Work related to the safety and health considerations at the plant and pumping stations has been completed.
- The interceptor sewer along Nantasket Avenue and Fitzpatrick Way has been identified as one of the largest risks and a renewal plan using trenchless technology is being developed for construction in late 2018.
- A pipeline renewal plan for the Atlantic Avenue/Gunrock area is being developed for construction by 2020.
- The emergency generators at the treatment facility were repaired and both are now fully functional.
- Cleared an 18 inch diameter sewer of a complete blockage that was previously thought to be abandoned.

#### **Protection of Plant during High Flows**

- Replacement of the treatment facility influent gate is scheduled for October 2017.
- An auxiliary pump and piping to supplement influent and effluent pumping needs as well high flow diversion is scheduled for completion in 2018.
- A draft Climate Resiliency Evaluation and Awareness Tool Report which assessed climate change threats to utility assets has been completed and will be a helpful tool moving forward for capital planning.
- A high flow management plan has been created. This is a living document that will be updated based on lessons learned during storm events.

#### **Odor Control**

- Treatment process changes have been made to reduce the amount of sludge produced. Wet well aerators have been installed in all the pump stations and in-pipe bacteria were installed at 20 locations to reduce fats, oils and grease as well as sulfide growth.

#### **Technology Enhancements**

- SCADA system which remotely monitors the pump stations and the treatment facility has been upgraded.

#### **Ongoing**

- Sewer service inspections for new construction, repairs, and sewage backups. Dig Safe mark outs to support other utility construction.

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