

Dear fellow City of Middletown Residents, Mayor and Council Members:

I was advised that the City was attacked recently by an email from a School Board member, and allegedly by School Superintendent, for its poor and crumbling Infrastructure, and that City government is not paying enough attention to it.

As always I assume that any one who is having a discussion with me, or voicing a criticism, of the City has the City's best interest at heart, and that is why I invest my time, listening and trying to explain what the City is doing in terms of improvements and progress. Most of the time, the person walks away from the discussion satisfied with the answers given.

Having said that, I will assume in this case that the gentlemen criticizing us have the City's best interest at heart and that they are simply uninformed and do not know what we are doing. I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight about the City of Middletown Infrastructure Improvement Projects.

In future emails I will explain our efforts regarding other programs that we are implementing to improve quality of life in the City, including our unique programs and efforts in Code Enforcement, and to inform the uninformed:

The following major infrastructure Upgrade and Expansion projects are being implemented over the last year and the next couple of years:

**Water Related Projects (approx cost \$28 Millions):**

1. Replacement of the City 1920 Water Treatment Plant: Phase II, Completed in 2010 at a project overall cost of over \$20 Millions. Phase I was completed in 2003 at a cost of over \$2.5 Millions. Now the City has State of the Art Water Treatment plant that is ready to treat and sell water, priceless commodity, to adjacent community who may need it. This plant includes water conservation and recycling measure that will increase the City's available water and provide additional capacity at the City's Wastewater Treatment plant.
2. New water pump station has been designed to replace an aging one, and is currently under review by DOH, with cost estimate of \$1.8 Millions
3. Ongoing project to install 18" Water Main on Co Rt 78 in order to have redundancy and to upgrade and provide a more robust City Water Water Distribution System. The project will include new Communication System between system water storage tanks and the main Control/SCADA System. Project Cost is approximately \$1.8 Millions. Project will be completed and commissioned this year.
4. Reconstruction of Mill Pond Dam, an important component of the City Raw Water resources (priceless commodity). Project will be completed this year/early next year at approximate cost of \$700,000.
5. Mill Pond Raw Water Pump Station, approximate Construction cost of \$1 Million.

### **Sewer Related Projects (approx cost \$41 Millions):**

1. Upgrade and Expansion of the City Wastewater Treatment Plant. Construction of this major project will provide for Wastewater Treatment capacity that may be used to generate revenue to the City. Construction and Commissioning of this state of the art facility will be completed early Spring 2011, at an approximate cost (Phase I and II) of \$36 Millions. This plant currently generates revenue of over \$125,000 annually, and is planned to increase to over \$400,000.
2. Install a new sewer relief line on Dolson Ave. Work is starting this month, and will be completed early Spring 2011. Total project cost is \$500,000 and is totally funded by private developers.
3. Sterling Street Area, Sewer Collection System Upgrade. This project design is completed and Construction is expected to start in Spring 2011 at a Cost estimate of \$4 Millions.
4. Wawayanda and Monhagen Storm Water Culverts/Bridge upgrades. The project is ongoing and is expected to be completed this year weather permitting, at a cost of \$600,000.( Federally Funded).

### **City Roads:**

We have been implementing roads maintenance program that includes milling and repaving City streets which restores the curb reveals and improves stormwater drainage. We continue to use micro-sealing as a pavement preservation technology where appropriate. Approximate annual investment is \$400,000.

Evaluating and implementing improvement to major roads intersections in the City. Currently we are working on a Roundabout Intersection for County Rt 78/108 to improve traffic flow and improve safety. Project Cost is \$1 Million, mostly grants funded.

It should be appreciated that the above significant commitment, of "the City Fathers" towards Infrastructure investment, of approximately **\$70 Millions** is funded by some grants and population of approximate 26,000 !! This is remarkable and some may argue they we are doing too much!

Its with huge sense of responsibility, and awareness of the state of economy that the Mayor, Council Members and I balance our Infrastructure needs and potentials with minimizing the tax burden on the residents of the City of Middletown.

I trust that the above gives the reader an idea of what we are doing to improve the City of Middletown Infrastructure. Please feel free to call if you have any questions or comments to discuss.

Sincerely,

**J Miguel Rodrigues**

**Alderman At Large**

**City of Middletown**

**845-742-8775**