



Board of Commissioners

PRESS RELEASE

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COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SUPPORT FUNDS TO ASSIST HOMEOWNERS IN KIRTLAND WITH MANDATED SANITARY SEWER PROJECT

PAINESVILLE, Ohio, June 10, 2022— The Board of Lake County Commissioners announced a significant investment of \$1m in American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) funds and \$250,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to assist homeowners in the Kirtland Old Town Area with an Environmental Protection Agency mandated sanitary sewer project.

“The ARPA guidance clearly permits the investment in sewer and water infrastructure and this project checks all those boxes while assisting over 100 homeowners with a critical improvement to their neighborhood. Today’s announcement not only helps with the construction of the main line, but the CDBG commitment is available to income-qualified homeowners for the lateral connection,” said Commission President John R. Hamercheck.

The Kirtland Old Town Area is comprised of parcels that date back to the 1800’s long before public water and sewers were available. In 2014, a storm sewer was found to contain untreated sewage from many failed household sewage treatment systems. Regulatory agencies routinely tested sewer catch basins with results indicating bacteria counts higher than the maximum amount allowable.

The project will provide sanitary sewer access to 132 properties in the Old Town Kirtland Area and eliminate untreated sewage discharges into the Chagrin River which is tributary to Lake Erie. The estimated project cost is \$3,700,000 which totals to about \$28,000 per property. The County ARPA investment will reduce the impact to the residential assessment by approximately \$7,000 - \$8,000 per parcel.

“These infrastructure improvements, while mandated by the Ohio EPA to protect Kirtland’s natural resources, represent a significant financial burden for the residents of this neighborhood and I am happy to allocate over \$1m to this project. Today’s announcement will provide much needed relief to over 100 landowners,” said Commissioner John Plecnik.

In addition to the ARPA investment, the CDBG funds will be available for income qualified homeowners. These funds will be administered by the Office of Planning and Community Development and will assist residents with the installation of the sanitary sewer lateral line to the main public line.

Added Commissioner Mark Tyler, “The construction of the SR 306 Sewer Project in Kirtland was completed just over ten years ago. The original project design provided for additional capacity for future expansion. I

am pleased that the next phase, which ties-in the downtown Kirtland residential neighborhood, will begin to move forward.”

Administered by the Lake County Department of Utilities, final construction budget and project timeline will be announced in the summer of 2022 with an estimated completion date of the fall of 2025.

“The City of Kirtland is entirely grateful to the Lake County Commissioners for the \$1.25m toward the funding of the Old Town Sewer Project. This commitment will go a long way to help lower the final assessment cost for the residents of our Old Town area. A special thanks to Commissioner Plecnik for taking seriously my plea to help our residents and acting as the catalyst to bring some much needed aid to our residents,” said Kirtland Mayor Kevin Potter.

The Commissioners will use \$1m of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). This is the seventh ARPA project approved by the County Commissioners since receiving the funds in the summer of 2021. The County will receive \$44.7 million from the Federal program. All funds shall be obligated in accordance to Department of Treasury guidance by 2024 and spent by December of 2026.

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