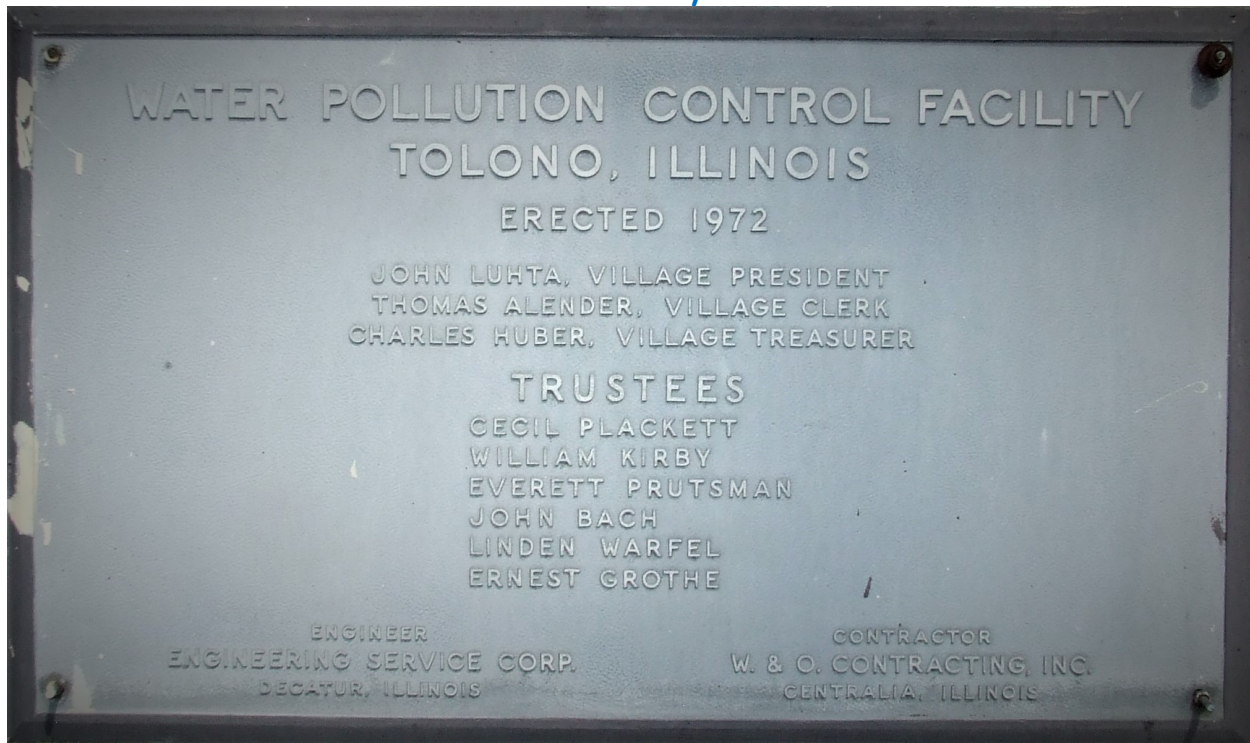

PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD
for WATER & WASTEWATER SYSTEMS
Thursday, February 24th at 7:00PM
Saturday, February 26th at Noon
Tolono Township Hall - 111 E Holden St
Questions? Concerns? Complaints?
We want to hear them all!

VILLAGE OF TOLONO
Water & Wastewater System Fact Sheet



How old is our water system?

The system was built over time. According to the above image, the Water Pollution Control Facility was erected in 1972.



When I turn the tap on, the water seems fine and when I flush the toilet it works ok...why think about a change?

We currently purchase our water from Illinois American but own the distribution system. We own the entire wastewater system. The Village has done an effective job of maintaining the existing water system

and running the wastewater system. The challenge is that in an effort to keep water and sewer rates down, not enough money has been put aside to replace worn out parts of the system. The Village doesn't have enough money to pay for upgrades.

In October 2019 engineers Donahue & Associates looked at the wastewater system. They identified a need for new valves, piping diffusers, and blowers. They also found a need for regulatory upgrades, concrete repairs, and expanded secondary clarifiers. They estimated the cost of an oxidation ditch system to be \$5.6 million. Later, in June of 2020, Donahue updated their report showing an estimated project cost of \$12.5 million. This included adding a new sewer line to the South. The Village reduced the scope of work and the estimate was lowered to about \$10 million.

Another Donahue report studied the water system and recommended repairs and looping for the water lines. That work was estimated to be about \$1.5 million.

The Village hired another engineering firm, Fehr Graham, which is drafting plans for a new wastewater treatment plant. That estimated cost is about \$12 million. This does not include any work on the water system.

To pay for upgrades, the Village will need to borrow money which it would repay through changes to the water and sewer rates.

Don't the water and wastewater systems make money?

No. The Village budget takes care of ongoing expenses. The monthly wastewater rate roughly covers the cost of processing sewage water, equipment repairs, test, salaries and engineering costs. It has not charged enough to pay for depreciation nor to set aside enough for future capital projects. Historically the Village has lost money on the wastewater system with about \$395,497.52 of annual income and about \$430,641.01 of annual cost.

For the water system, the monthly water rate loosely covers the purchase cost, repairs, salaries, and engineering costs. Historically the Village has lost money on the water system but has raised rates to try to break even. The most recent

numbers are about \$646,790.56 of annual water income with about \$579,946.92 of annual costs.

Are we selling?

We don't know for sure. The Village was facing large system upgrade costs and we wanted to check out all of our options. We hired an engineering consultant out of Florida who is a national expert on analyzing systems like ours. Hartman Consultants looked at our systems, looked at our engineering reports, and talked to our engineers. After considering the age of our system, the anticipated expenses, and the value of the system, Hartman recommended that we issue a request for proposals (RFP) to look at selling the systems.

Our biggest worry about keeping the systems had to do with being able to afford to do so. We are facing spending a total of about \$11.5 million on the wastewater and water systems.

So, the Village issued the RFP and we received an offer from Illinois American Water. Part of what we are negotiating has to do with them making a commitment to upgrade the systems. If we sell to them then Village water and wastewater rates will be part of regional rates charged to Champaign, Urbana, Savoy, Fisher and other communities. These rates are regulated by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC).

If we sold the system. What would my rates be?

A current water/wastewater user of 3,500 gallons a month pays the Village \$68.81 per month for combined services. The rate in 2022 for Illinois American would be about \$69.53. A current Village user of 4,500 gallons a month pays the Village \$85.62 a month. The rate for 2022 for Illinois American would be \$82.83.

The Village has a plan to increase its rates over the next few years. If we make repairs to our system, future rates will need to be able to pay for any future debts.

Illinois American has filed with the ICC to raise their rates as well, but since it is an 11-month long process, it is currently not known what the final rates will be.

Does my opinion matter?

Absolutely! The Village has been discussing this for the past few years at its public board meetings and consistently invited public input. Individual Trustees and the President have also spoken to you and many of your neighbors. Informational meetings are being planned at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 24, 2022 and noon on Saturday, February 26, 2022. The purpose of these is to provide information to community members and more importantly get valuable input from the community.

Comments from the public have been and will always be taken at Village Board meetings. It's also a great idea to send the Village a letter, an email, and/or talk to a Trustee or the President. The Village wants to hear from everyone!

Village of Tolono Board Contact Information:

Village President

Rob Murphy rob.murphy@tolonoil.us

Village Trustees

Vicki Buffo vicki.buffo@tolonoil.us

Ann Jack Haluzak ann.haluzak@tolonoil.us

Kyle Hayden kyle.hayden@tolonoil.us

Ryan Perry ryan.perry@tolonoil.us

Jared Robbins jared.robbins@tolonoil.us

Terrence Stuber terrence.stuber@tolonoil.us



Village Hall Contact Information:

Phone 217-485-5212

Email info@tolonoil.us