

**After the March 4, 2019** public meeting the Pierpont Revitalization Committee sat down and evaluated where to go next. Businesses have left downtown Pierpont and residential properties are in disrepair; 75% of buildings have septic systems over 30 years old or are in-use without permits. The overwhelming consensus was that to stop Pierpont’s demise and bring commerce back to town we had to develop a sanitary sewer system. *But how to pay for it? It was obvious that the projected assessed cost of \$33,000 per household was totally unrealistic.*

So, what did the committee do?

First, we obtained a General Plan as required by Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) through CT Engineering with the help of the County Commissioners.

Then, we arranged with the Commissioners’ for the County Engineer to do the design work, thus allowing for “at home” design and COST CONTROL.

Lastly, we investigated grant funding that did not require OEPA Findings and Orders.

So here we are. In mid-July the Ohio Legislature passed and Governor DeWine signed an historic State Budget that included \$1.5 million dollars over two years for Pierpont’s sewer project. Tremendous thanks are due to Representative John Patterson and Senator Sean O’Brien for conceiving and delivering this funding.

What’s it going to cost?

**\$2,700,000 (Plan estimates\* ran from \$2.4 to 2.7M)**

- **1,500,000 Ohio Legislature grant**
- **750,000 Other grants we feel reasonably able to secure**
- \$ 450,000 Estimated project cost balance**

\$450,000 divided by a minimum of 72 property owners\*\*= **\$6,250 per household or \$312.50 per year as a real estate tax assessment \* plus 2% admin fee (~\$382)**

Additional Costs. Individual homes and businesses will need to be hooked up to the new system and the old system removed or made inoperable. Cost estimates range from \$6000-9500 and are the responsibility of the owner. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are available to assist income qualified owner-occupied property with connection and abandonment. The Ashtabula County Department of Environmental Services (ACDES) will develop an equitable monthly service charge that will secure the future integrity of the system.

Benefits.

1. The total cost is a fraction of a new septic system (\$20-25,000 household; \$75,000 commercial)
2. We will be ahead of the curve meeting new septic system regulations, minimum lot sizes, OEPA mandates and Ashtabula River water quality
3. Property will become more valuable and saleable
4. Business can return to downtown Pierpont

\*Full engineering will provide a more accurate estimate. \*\*The final per property cost will be determined by the County Engineer based on frontage and hookup