



In 2014, the Town suffered through 35 water main breaks, and averaged 15 main breaks per year since that time. With well over 100 main breaks since 2014, the average cost to fix each break is \$2,500 equating to a significant yearly impact to the water utility budget. In addition to the main breaks, an annual inspection from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) in late 2019 requires that the Town implement "...it's long term water line replacement plan" for older mains. We continue to work with IDEM to make sure we are abiding by all state and federal laws and we will work with our financial consultant to make sure we have the necessary funds to fix these problems when they arise.

The current Water Main Improvement Project that will begin this spring replaces over two miles of water main along six roadways within the Town of Centerville. These mains were identified for replacement due to their age, low pressure and flow issues, and past water main break history.

In addition to the water main and water meter replacement components of this project, the Town will also be replacing lead service lines for 150+ residents along the water main routes. Removing the lead lines reduces the potential for health impacts. This will replace the service line from the water main all the way to within 5' of the foundation of the home or structure. This effort is focused on reducing the amount of lead within the water system and allows the Town to qualify for 0% loans to offset the cost of the lead service work.

In an effort to keep the rate increase to a minimum, the Town successfully secured a \$700,000 grant through the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) to help offset the construction cost of this water main project.

The Town Council must always prepare for increasing operational costs, unexpected maintenance costs, and future capital costs. In order to do this, a financial consultant was hired to perform a water rate study. That study identified that the past unexpected maintenance costs and rising operational costs have depleted the recommended amount of reserve funds. In order to bond for the water main project, those reserves must be rebuilt and maintained throughout the life of the bond, while also building in additional funds for unexpected repairs, ongoing operational costs, and future capital costs.

It has always been and will continue to be the Town of Centerville's goal to provide safe, clean, and reliable drinking water and fire protection to its users and will continue to invest in necessary, long-term projects. These projects will have a direct and lasting impact on the Town and provide the best value to the water system.

Centerville Town Council