

February 27, 2011

Hello everyone!

I hope you are enjoying (enduring?) the winter...spring is just around the corner!

It has come to my attention that the sewer department is considering a transfer of the cost of maintaining grinder pumps to the homeowner.

As you know, the pumps were installed during the phase II sewer project and are considered town property. At that time, homeowners were told that the sewer department would be responsible for the installation, maintenance and/or repairs of the grinder pumps. The only time the property owner would be responsible would be if the repairs were due to something that the homeowner did to the unit (e.g., tampering, or improper disposal) or after being notified that if it happens again they would be charged for the repairs. Each homeowner was given a RIGHT OF ENTRY AGREEMENT (EASEMENT) from the Sewer Department to install the pump on the homeowner's property. (Note: It is my understanding that the homeowner should have recorded the right of entry agreement with the registry of deeds. If you cannot find your copy, you should be able to obtain one from the sewer department.)

However, over the past six months or so, the sewer department has been investigating the legality of transferring the ownership and maintenance of the pumps to the homeowner. The sewer department is in the process of establishing a new contract which would not require them to maintain and/or repair the pumps. This contract will go into effect on January 1, 2012.

In speaking with Steve at the sewer department, he indicated that there would be a public hearing on the proposed contract. A two week advanced notice of the meeting will be provided and the proposed rules and regulations would be available for review during that time. To my knowledge, a meeting date has not been set.

For reference, in 2010, the sewer department spent ~\$30,000 in parts for the grinder pumps. There are currently ~176 grinder pumps in use in Charlton, with a good majority around Glen Echo Lake.

This is all the information I have. If you are a grinder pump owner, I urge you to contact the sewer department for more information. Sewer department information (meeting agendas, meeting times and minutes) is available on the town website.

Regards,  
Jackie Nowak  
President, GEIA

Sewer Department Contact Info:  
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[www.townofcharlton.net/watersewercom.htm](http://www.townofcharlton.net/watersewercom.htm)