



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Avon to send first bills for new stormwater utility

New system includes equitable rates, shorter maintenance cycles and improved customer service

AVON, Ind. – Local citizens, businesses and organizations will soon receive their first bill for the Town of Avon’s newly formed stormwater utility. Town officials plan to send the bill on April 1 and quarterly thereafter.

The Town of Avon has placed a high emphasis on preventing flooding and standing water caused by rain events. Flooding and standing water can cause a risk to life, lead to property damage and create public health issues such as mosquitos.

Making a decision to control its own fate in this area, the Avon Town Council last year voted to form an Avon-owned-and-operated stormwater utility. Avon researched the issue for several years and worked closely with county officials on the transition.

The Town has experienced significant growth during the past 20 years, which places a higher demand on already limited resources. There was also a previous overlap of stormwater maintenance with the Hendricks County Surveyor that results in a duplication of services and inefficiencies.

With the new utility, Avon will be better positioned to address capital needs, improve responsiveness, eliminate the duplication of services and improve management of the community’s stormwater infrastructure.

Avon conducted a feasibility study in 2016 that identified several potential advantages, with the three most important benefits being:

- Fair and equitable stormwater rates
- Quicker project identification and completion
- Improved customer service

Avon Director of Public Works Ryan Cannon says the new utility provides the necessary authority and flexibility to properly manage the town’s stormwater infrastructure.

“We have roughly \$3.3 million in capital stormwater needs right now, and previously there was no funding mechanism to complete those projects,” said Cannon. “Avon will now be able to address these needs, which will help prevent costly and dangerous flooding.”

The feasibility study also recommended an equitable, research-based structure for potential customer rates. The town accomplished this by instituting rates based upon the amount of impervious surface area on each property, a term used for how much property is covered by impenetrable materials (asphalt, concrete, roofs, etc.).

An average home's impervious area established the base billing unit, called the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU). Residential customers will be charged one ERU per month (three ERUs per quarterly billing cycle), while non-residential customers will be charged multiple ERUs per billing cycle based on the property's total impervious area.

Most Avon residents previously paid around \$100 annually to the Hendricks County Surveyor's Office to maintain legal drains in their neighborhood. The payment was included with property taxes and will now be eliminated from tax bills. Homeowner payments will now decrease to approximately \$72 annually and will be paid to the new stormwater utility. Some residents currently pay less than the \$72 amount, but a majority of residents will see a decrease in payments coupled with an increase in maintenance and customer service.

Capital Needs Estimate

Project Area	Estimated Cost
Avon Heights Middle	\$465,000
Avon Heights South	\$450,000
Cobblestone	\$485,000
Dan Jones Road	\$185,000
Avon Woods	\$10,000
Pines of Avon and CR 100 S	\$350,000
Timber Bend	\$80,000
Oak Bend	\$90,000
Stratford of Avon	\$100,000
Austin Lakes Study and Maintenance	\$165,000
Austin Lakes Improvements	\$750,000
Raceway Road at CSX Underpass	\$60,000
CR 625 Culvert South of CR 91 N	\$125,000
Total	\$3,315,000

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