

Questions and Answers from Littleton Sewer Public Forums held on April 27th and May 4th 2022

There have been references to the Littleton Common Sewer District and the Littleton Common Sewer Division, what is the difference?

There really is no difference. The legislation describes the area to be sewered as the Littleton Common Sewer Division, however, most people understand the term Littleton Common Sewer District better, so that is why you may have seen both terms referenced.

If a resident permanently opts-out and then down the road decides they want to reconnect, what is the process? Why do they need a town-meeting vote to hook up to the system? Can the Water Department change this process?

In this situation the customer would need to formally petition the Board of Water Commissioners to reconnect with a letter. If the Board of Water Commissioners is in favor of the connection, then town meeting approval would be needed before the customer could connect.

Unfortunately, that is what the legislation states and that is the process we need to follow. To change this process, we would need to get town-meet approval of an amended legislation and then the town would need to petition the state legislature to accept that change. From there the senate house and Governor would all need to approve. This is a long process, but very possible and one we will be pursuing.

What is the purpose of a Title V inspection?

A Title V inspection determines if your septic system is running efficiently, that it has been properly maintained and pumped and that there are no issues regarding the construction or use of it. Title V code is administered by the Littleton Board of Health.

Who are some local Title V inspectors that we could use?

A list of Massachusetts system inspectors sorted by town can be found here:

<https://neiwpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/SI-In-state-2-2-22.pdf>

Are individual property owners responsible for decommissioning of their own existing septic systems?

Yes – individual property owners are responsible for decommissioning their own septic systems. An application must be filed with the Littleton Board of Health to decommission a system.

What are the septic system removal standards in Littleton? Is there a clear definition of what is considered a decommissioned septic system?

The Littleton Board of Health is responsible for approving the decommissioning of a septic system in town. For more information please contact the Board of Health at 978-540-2430.

Are mixed use buildings able to opt-out?

Only single and two-family residential properties have the ability to opt-out. Properties owned by a tax-exempt organization will have the ability to opt-out as well.

When does the betterment fee take effect?

The betterment fees will be assessed once we award a construction contract. We will be assessing half of the betterment fee at this point in time. The betterment fees will be attached to your tax bill.

If I connect to the system and pay the betterment fee all up front, do I need to pay interest?

If you pay completely up front you won't pay interest.

How is this project being finance and what is the SRF loan?

SRF is short for State Revolving Fund. The SRF loan is a loan program through the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust that is specifically for water and wastewater utilities. The sewer system construction will be financed by this loan at an interest rate at 1.5% over 30 years.

Does the sewer system have the ability to be expanded?

Yes – The treatment facility, collection system and recharge site are being designed to be expandable. The system is being designed so that we can accept very low flows initially and then as flow gradually increased, we can incrementally add to the facility without a large capital commitment.

What is the two-year connection period and when does that begin?

Property owners that do not opt-out must connect to the sewer system within two (2) years after the sewer is approved for use and a notice of sewer availability has been issued by the Board Water Commissioners. We anticipate the sewer system to be approved for use by the fall of 2024.

Where will project construction begin?

Project construction will begin simultaneously on the Water Resource Recovery Facility and the Common Sewer Expansion. We are in the permitting process currently. We hope to go to bid later this summer and award a contract in August or September. Construction could begin as early as this fall.

If residents who are in the sewer district, but are not on the initial build-out want to connect, how do they go about doing so?

Residents who would like to connect to the system and are not included in the initial build-out will need to submit an application to the Board of Water Commissioners.

The application can be found at <https://www.lclwd.com/sewer-division/>. Navigate to the Sewer Use Rules and Regulations tab and the applications are in appendix C. There are application and processing fees that may apply.

Do you anticipate construction delays due to various supply chain issues?

Yes – we are anticipating various delays due to supply chain issues. This is why it's extremely important that we are able to bid and award a construction contract as soon as possible.

What happens if a commercial customer does not want to connect?

Commercial properties do not have the option to opt-out of the system. Properties connecting to the system have 2 years to do so once the system becomes available to them.

The legislation states: Prior to or upon the start of construction of the sewer system, properties that have been given access to the sewer system and have not opted out of the Littleton common sewer division pursuant to section 3, shall be required, by the board of water commissioners or other duly authorized officer having charge of the maintenance and repair of the sewer system, **to connect to the sewer system not later than 2 years after the sewer is approved for use and a notice of sewer availability has been issued by the board of water commissioners, or other duly authorized officer, and received by the property owner.**

What is the anticipated construction time?

We are estimating construction will take 18-24 months for the entire system. We will have a better understanding of the schedule after a construction contract has been awarded.

Is the Littleton Police Department and The Point connecting to the system?

The Littleton Police Department and The Point are not connecting to the system at this point in time. Crossing over the I-495 bridge on Great Road is extremely costly and not feasible during the initial build-out of the system.

At the most recent town meeting, there was an article to fund replacing water main. Does that have anything to do with this project?

The most recent borrowing authorization at town meeting authorized LWD to borrow \$2,000,000 for the purpose of funding new water main infrastructure at King Street, Great Road, Stevens Street, Russell Street, Warren Street, Whitcomb Avenue and Taylor Street. The Water Department intends to fully retire this short-term borrowing using free cash, after it is certified in FY 2024 and becomes available for use.

In short, yes some of this article is related to sewer. The borrowing enables LWD to complete the water main installation while the roads are opened for installation of sewer mains and the roads are only repaved once.