

Village of Leonard Sewerage Survey Results February 2019

Number of surveys mailed: 144

Number of surveys returned: 57

Percent of surveys returned: 39%

(Two returned surveys were not original survey but reproductions. all with the same answers)

(NOTE: Some question totals do not equal 57 due to some survey questions not being answered.)

1.) Where do you live in Leonard? Within ¼ mile radius: 42

Outside ¼ mile radius: 10

2.) Do you own your home or rent/lease? Own: 56 Rent/Lease: 0

3.) Would you be willing to support a public sewer system in order for more businesses to open in the downtown area? Yes: 27 No: 30

4.) Did you know that certain businesses are not able to open because of the current way sewage is handled (Individual septic systems that lack capacity due to soil conditions and lot size?

Yes: 43 No: 14

5.) In order to provide a public sewage handling system, the Village must first pay a consulting engineering service to study the current situation and make recommendation for how various sewerage systems would work in the Village. The study costs approx. \$25,000. Do you think the study should be performed for the Village?

Yes: 25 No: 30

For those residents reporting living outside the ¼ mile radius, they voted Yes 8 and No 2 in the total results. For those residents reporting living within the ¼ mile radius they voted Yes 24 and No 16.

6.) Would you be interested in connecting your home to a community public sewerage system?

Yes: 20 No: 31

7.) Would you like to see the Village Business and undeveloped property become more developed by providing sewerage service? Yes: 27 No: 25

(5 Undecided written in)

8.) Do you have any comments or information regarding a public community sewerage system you would like to share?

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### COMMENTS BELOW ARE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION 8

- We don't care about businesses opening in Leonard. We do not want to be like Oxford! We live here because it is quiet!
- Businesses and the people who need the system should pay entirely for the system not all of the residents.
- I think the money would be better used to clean the main ditches that drain the village that have not been cleaned for 60 years and are full of trees & dirt.
- A primary concern should be directed at current residents of Leonard and while future development, home bldg., etc., the existing homes could all be helped by better a sewage system. Any future business developments with the village limits would promote family-based concerns and be valued on the basis of what best serves the community.
- The village is in debt fare(sp) enough. Are the roads paid for yet? There other ways these property can get sewer systems.
- We enjoy living in a rural community & do not desire it to be changed.
- Only 3 people want this, I don't
- Not in my village
- I thought keeping Leonard rural was you(sp) goal. Parking in downtown area is a problem. What happens if/when sewer installation is in progress?
- No public community sewerage system. We love our Village the way it is. Quiet
- For homeowners yes not to make owner of Leonard Market more rich. I just got my mail so I am late. I would like a sewage system but it seems like this is for business not people so I am against this. For Leonard Market? So he can own more no thanks. For homeowners yes not a rich former(sp)
- It should have been put in 55 years ago before the buildings where the post office is now were torn down. It's better to volunteer to put it in than to be fosed (sp). It's better to use "grant money", rather than pay all out of pocket. We could pay for it by charging people out of Leonard to tap in to our sewer system. Lakeville is looking for someplace to run sewage.
- I would like to know when result of survey will be shared with Village community. I would like to know if it is possible to develop sewer system for just down town are (to reduce costs). As always, the bottom line is cost (increase in taxes). I know you won't know this without the consulting survey. We must move forward. Also, those property (business) owners need to bear the brundt(sp) of the cost to do this since they stand to benefit(sp) most. If we enhance or even make these building useable then what is their plan to develop these buildings? Sell them?

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- Without sewers our “destination town” will not be located in the existing downtown. As our storm drains fail, so will our septic systems. Small lots with “unacceptable soil” per OCHD rely on storm drains. It won’t be long before any grant money available will time out & if we keep procrastinating and pretend the drainage problems don’t exist the costs will be unaffordable!
- When will residents be told the cost? What undeveloped properties are considered for development?
- The village piled snow in front of my drive blocking access to my building the week of Jan. 28, 2019. No drop box at village hall.
- The village has the responsibility to look into all considerations. The current condition of the downtown area is embarrassing.
- I feel like we should get this started in the Village Business area first & expand from there!
- The residents on Rosy Drive pay approx. \$1,000+ annually. I do not want to have to pay anymore. I feel a lot of the tax money we have spent the past 15 years can be applied. (\$15,000). \*All we get is garbage pick-up & recycle pick-up for that amount!
- Question 7. Yes to an extent. Let's not turn Leonard into a Rochester. Let's keep Leonard the small town it is known for. Also does public sewer eventually lead to public water and no wells? I do not want to pay for water in the future.
- Don't want to pay for something we don't need.
- Very expensive to accommodate a few.
- We do not know enough about the facts to make a decision. It would benefit the business section but could we afford it.
- We like Leonard because it is not developed. We don't want restaurants & bars and more traffic. We do not see the benefit to spending money to commission a study, then money to put a system in, then money every month for service.
- I only had a couple of days after receiving this survey to return it. Please provide info as to estimated costs so I can make an informed decision. Thank you!
- I own a small business & would love for my business to be in the Village of Leonard. I live one block south of town & want city sewer. The septic (sp) has too many issues. We need a restaurant in town & other businesses.
- The Village will continue to go downhill until the sewage problem is fixed.
- The cost of a sewer system project would be a great burden on many village residents who are on fixed or low incomes and whose current septic systems handle their households without difficulty. If this project goes through, they will be forced to pay for a system that they themselves will not be using. Or they will

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be forced to hook-up to a sewer system they do not need. We for example live within the circle as does our neighbor across (sp) the street and neither of us have any problem with our current septic system. Doubtless there are many others that would say the same. Some residents who have lived in this village for years may be forced to leave their homes, selling them at a loss. Simply because they can no longer afford to stay.

In our opinion this project will do far more harm to our community, than good. Also the question of a sewer system allowing more businesses to open in the downtown area. Aside from the initial cost of creating and connecting to this new sewer system. Does the community realize that without a public water system which is metered our monthly sewer bills would be based on an average of the community's total usage. Therefore a small household that flushes a toilet 5-6 times a day will be footing part of the bill for a business they may be flushing theirs 500 times a day, such as a restaurant or bar. Therefore these households will be paying an unfair share monthly as well as the initial cost. I used to live in a community like that, when we finally did get city water, our sewer bill dropped dramatically but then there was the cost of hooking up to the water and paying again for something we did not need or want, monthly!

NOTE: Several residents wrote in comments outside the comment space provided, usually in response to a particular question. Most often they also marked their answer to the question.

These were not reported in this summary, but many were to the effect of:

- Need more information to respond
- Not sure
- If the money is there, sure (Question 7)
- Don't care (Question 4)
- Cost per household? (Question 6)
- At what cost to each homeowner (Question 6)
- With some limitations (Question 7)
- (2) Maybe (Question 6)
- Depends (Question 6)
- Undecided (Question 6)
- I thought Keeping Leonard rural was you(sp) goal
- Cost per household? (Question 6)
- But only when/once current septic field fails! (Question 6)
- Support how?? (Question 3)

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- Is there a cost to Homeowners? Increased taxes? (Question 5)
- Maybe, again, what is the cost? (Question 6)
- Probably not (Question 6)
- At what cost to each homeowner?
- Maybe if no cost to me (Question 5)