

June 2021

**Mayor Thomas Bernard
Council President Jason LaForest
City Councilors
North Adams, Massachusetts**

Dear Mayor Bernard, Council President LaForest and Members of the City Council,

As your constituents who reside on Woodlawn Avenue, we are formerly seeking funds to cover the costs of upcoming installation of a force main and related construction, per Trinity Engineering specifications, for City-sewer hookup on the City-owned avenue where we live. For perspective, two of us reside in original family homesteads; one of which was the third house built on the avenue and dates back to 1949.

For years, several of us have pursued City sewer-hook up to no avail. The line stops at 78 Woodlawn (once owned by a former head of the City's Department of Public Works) which omits the four remaining properties on our side of the avenue. As taxpayers, we had hoped North Adams would hook our end of the avenue into sewer as a City project. In the meantime, the septic system at 108 Woodlawn has failed and the property does not perk. City allotted time for resolve is concluding. Therefore, hookup into the City sewer is now urgent.

The City via DPW expects to donate piping and fittings but has declined the construction of the project citing previous cost projections which would significantly exceed estimates offered this month by Barkus Construction. As documented, Barkus estimates \$20,155 for material, labor and equipment in accordance with Trinity Engineering specifications; an estimated \$5,000 to \$6,000 for black topping; and \$5,000 to \$6,000 or more to set individual sub stations, piping and pumps to connect to the force main. (This total estimate does not include unforeseen issues. Nor does it include each homeowner's additional cost for a new tank or tank hookup on each property; also in the thousands.)

Currently, the project is expected to be divided among the four households since the main pipe with openings to hook into will run in front of our properties. This will be imperative if/when our septic systems also fail. Therefore, we are asking the City for monies to help cover the cost of the contractor's fees in addition to the donated piping and fittings. We are providing you with engineering plans completed by Trinity Engineering, and the estimates for this project by Barkus Construction. Additionally, we are including a copy of an April 2021 WAMC article pertaining to funding via the American Rescue Plan for sewer infrastructure.

Finally, we will need in writing that the City will claim ownership of the main and related materials in the event future upkeep, repairs or replacement is needed since it will be installed on City-owned property/avenue.

Please keep in mind each property owner will also be required to pay quarterly sewer fees once hooked in, which will eventually be a financial return to the City.

Thank you for your time and taking this matter under immediate advisement.

Sincerely,

Elena M. Sprague, 100 Woodlawn Avenue
Natalie and Karl D'Ambrosio, 94 Woodlawn Avenue
Lisa Tessier, 108 Woodlawn Avenue
Marian and William Roper, 116 Woodlawn Avenue

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