

**MAYOR'S REPORT  
JUNE 24, 2009**

**NATURAL GAS BALLOT QUESTION – “OPTOUT” PROPOSAL**

**The benefits are as follows:**

- On an on going basis, optout programs save about \$.40/Mcf compared to optin programs
- As of today's market, residents switching to the optout program will save about \$2/Mcf starting February 2010
- No fee to switch programs
- For optout programs, customers are switched to the new supplier automatically
- Senior discount, saving \$.10/Mcf

The City of Struthers administration and council met with Tom Bellish of Buckeye Energy Brokers on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup> to propose a greater savings opportunity for residential gas customers which would include rates for city operations. The “optout” question is proposed for the General Election this year.

The natural gas futures market is much higher this winter than current summer rates and with rate increases from Dominion East Ohio, I am sure residents will be interested in reducing their utility bills. Residents I have spoken to have been very interested in the program and would like to see the lowest rate possible.

We have seen the benefit of this format with the electric program. The city has also seen decreases in its natural gas costs from about \$12/Mcf to \$8.94/Mcf saving \$17,000.

I strongly urge council to pass this legislation and give the citizens an opportunity to vote in November and please note that

the Board of Elections deadline is August 20<sup>th</sup> for the ballot ordinance.

Buckeye Energy Brokers, Inc. is PUCO certified in energy buying and view aggregation of residential and small commercial customers as a valuable service that local governments can provide. Without it, the small consumer is left without a meaningful savings alternative.

**SAXONY PLACE ROADWAY**

Plans and specifications for the proposed Saxony Place Roadway off of Route 170 have been reviewed by our engineer and have been approved. The plans will now be submitted to ODOT for their review and approval. This roadway will be an entrance to the Saxony Place Development off of Youngstown-Poland Road.

**5<sup>TH</sup> STREET CULVERT**

Bids were accepted and opened for this project on Friday; June 19<sup>th</sup> and the lowest bidder came in at \$119,733.76. This project is located on 5<sup>th</sup> Street between Spring Street and Creed Street. It will consist of the removal and replacement of the existing culvert and a portion of the sanitary sewer system on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The culvert was previously inspected and found to be rated in critical condition due to a sanitary leak.

The engineer is in the process of reviewing all bids and the Board of Control will award the bid upon the engineer's recommendations and the project will begin this summer.

#### **HELENA & ROUTE 616 CULVERT**

As we continue in our effort to clean our city. ODOT assisted in cleaning the Helena & Route 616 Culvert which was left neglected for many years. Tires and debris was removed from this culvert area; as well as stabilization around the banks was restored. I would like to extend my thanks to Joe Maslac and his crew (ODOT) for continually helping the city; extending labor and equipment is much appreciated.

#### **SPRING STREET PROJECT UPDATE**

The Spring Street Project began on Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and I am happy to announce that we will be able to clean and repair the outlet pipe that extends from Clemente parking lot which will help to prevent flooding of a new business on Youngstown-Poland Road and Sexton Street as well as restoring yards to residents. Also; as part of our Stormwater Program; we will be installing water quality detention ponds in two areas before Spring Street. This will clean the water and slow the impact of the water during major rain events to prevent flooding downstream.

I would like to thank Safety Director Ed Wildes for his active role working with the residents and contractor to allow this project to be expanded.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Terry P. Stocker  
Mayor