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January 5, 2012

Jason Willett
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Mr. Willett:

On December 13 we discussed the City's concern regarding its 2012 sanitary sewer charge. Also at this meeting was Kyle Colvin, MCES; Patti Nauman, Metro Cities; Roger Hackbarth, City Council; and Dan Boyum, City Engineer. As noted during the meeting, our rate increased by \$60,563, or 33.7%. This has placed a significant financial burden on the community, especially as it relates to potential resulting sewer rates. In order for the community to meet its operating and debt service expenses, including the sewer charge, sewer rates would need to increase by 28% on top of the approved 9% increase for 2012. That increase would give the City a balanced budget, but not bring its sewer operating fund out of deficit.

The City understands its responsibility to pay this charge. However, we are asking for your assistance, now, to help alleviate this burden.


As noted during our December 13 meeting, the City is seeking flexibility to meet this obligation. We are requesting to pay the amount owed in 2011, plus an additional amount per year, interest free, until the obligation is paid in full. It would be our full intention to pay off what is owed as soon as possible, provided funds allow.

We agree with Metro Cities that criteria for a larger program, addressing similar concerns for cities now, and in the future, should be considered by the Metropolitan Council. However, this issue is urgent for Maple Plain, now, and cannot wait for the time it would take to create such a program or policy.

We are not asking for special privileges. We are simply asking for understanding of the financial burden facing the community and its residents. We formally request the Metropolitan Council grant Maple Plain additional time to pay in full what is owed.

Feel free to contact me with further questions. I can be reached at (763) 479-0515 or jziemer@mapleplain.com. I would also be happy to attend the upcoming Environmental Committee meeting, if necessary.

Sincerely,


Jason A. Ziemer
Maple Plain City Administrator

cc: Kyle Colvin, MCES
Patti Nauman, Metro Cities