

TO **SAVE** MONEY VOTE **YES** FOR WATER

On November 5, 2019 the Lisbon Water Department is seeking approval for the ability to borrow up to \$6.0 million for improvements to the community's water system. First and foremost we need to express that regardless of the referendum outcome there will be an increase on the water rates **but voting "YES" will allow us to keep the rate as low as possible for the longest period of time.**

The Lisbon Water Department's infrastructure is comprised of over 36 miles of pipe, two standpipes, hydrants, valves, and about 2600 services most of which has been in service for over 100 years. Because the water system was designed and constructed in the early 1900's, it is severely undersized for firefighting and has exceeded its expected service life. Additionally, pipe that was installed after World War 2 through the 1970's has a high failure rate. To illustrate just how fragile the water system is **12 leaks occurred while repairing 11 other failures** during the 11 month period from November 1, 2018 to October 23, 2019. In 2017, we experienced 6 leaks which cost \$33,000.00 to repair. In 2018, 13 leaks were repaired for over \$65,000.00 and in 2019 there have been 20 leaks and repairs have cost over \$218,000.00.

Water infrastructure failures typically cost several times what the same work would cost if it was planned. Main Street has experienced 7 breaks in the last 3 years. The water main break that occurred last February at the intersection of Main St and South St took 35 hours to repair and created three other failures that ultimately cost the rate payers over \$120,000.00 to replace 12 feet of pipe. The same \$120,000 could have replaced 600 feet of new water main that would last approximately 100 years. In other words proactively replacing infrastructure will save significant dollars for our customers.

In the previous information letter we mailed to rate payers the first week of October, the Water Department identified 21 water main improvements that are necessary to improve firefighting capacity and improve system reliability. Of the six million, \$ 3.25 million is for replacing and increasing the size of 11,000 feet of water main on Main St **AND** all the appurtenances attached to it. Our intention is to coordinate the infrastructure improvements with the MDOT road reconstruction. Again regardless of the referendum outcome **the Department will be required to relocate and/or replace ALL the Department's portion of any infrastructure (including the main) to accommodate the new sewer and storm water infrastructure; as well as repair any failures that occur due to construction in the area before, during, and after the completion of the brand new road.** The anticipated costs will be hundreds of thousands of dollars as the project proceeds over the 2 year schedule resulting in an enormous rate increase to cover those costs rather than borrow the funds for a 10 or 20 year term if the referendum is approved. With the support of the rate payers we can be **proactive** and control costs rather than having a reactive approach to maintain the water system. Unfortunately rates will need to increase as the Department must be able to fund capital improvements, maintain the system, and increase efficiencies of operation.

PLEASE VOTE **YES FOR THE WATER REFERNDUM TO ENHANCE THE DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO **PROVIDE UP TO 50 TIMES MORE** FOR OUR CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY!!**