



CITY OF HUDSON

115 Executive Parkway . Suite 400 . Hudson, OH . 44236 . (330) 650-1799 . www.hudson.oh.us

November 25, 2014

An Open Letter to the Citizens of Hudson:

Akron Water customers in Hudson recently saw a "Hudson Projects Surcharge" appear on their water bills. While this surcharge only affects Akron Water customers, the issues behind it affect all Hudson citizens. We know this is incredibly frustrating to Hudson's Akron water customers, and we are disappointed with the City of Akron for choosing to penalize our citizens in this way.

In a letter from Akron Water Service Director John O. Moore, he implies that the 42% increase in their water rate is a result of Hudson's failure to sign a water agreement with the City of Akron. The surcharge and the agreement are very separate issues. Akron is using our residents as leverage in an attempt to get their way in the unrelated agreement.

What is Akron Doing?

- Akron says they need to replace a major transmission line which runs through Hudson to service Twinsburg and the Coca-Cola plant.
- Akron says Hudson's Akron water customers must pay for the capital cost of this project.
- Akron already charges Hudson's Akron water customers a 60% premium fee and a monthly capital projects fee.
- Hudson has suggested alternatives, which Akron admits they have not studied, but have rejected out of hand.
- Why is Akron levying exorbitant fees from Hudson residents as a way to "strong arm" Hudson to sign an agreement to share income tax revenue with Akron for a development area that Akron does not serve?
- Akron does not intend to stop the "Hudson Projects Surcharge," even if Hudson signed such an agreement.
- Akron has declared a moratorium on added water services in Hudson areas they serve, prohibiting residents from obtaining new water services.

What is Hudson Doing?

- We have determined Akron does not have exclusive jurisdiction in the area of Hudson they currently service with water.
- We have begun negotiations to develop alternate water service to the area currently served by Akron.
- We do not support subsidizing Akron's quest for new commercial customers in Twinsburg through a Hudson citizen-financed new transmission line.
- We are looking into the viability of legal action on these two issues.

The City of Hudson will not tolerate the abuse of our citizens or condone the siphoning of Hudson's revenues as proposed by the City of Akron. Similarly, we expect any contractor or utility serving Hudson to treat our residents with honesty and provide quality services.

Akron has chosen to exercise neither of these practices and is leaving no option for Hudson other than to seek alternative opportunities to provide water to the current Akron Water customers, a difficult but not impossible task.

We appreciate your support as we join together to resolve this unfortunate situation that Akron has opted to levy on the City of Hudson.

Sincerely,

Jane Howington
City Manager
City of Hudson, Ohio