

Village of Magnetic Springs Sanitary Sewer Project: Summary of Union County Health Department Involvement

The following information is provided for clarification in response to questions raised during the March 2026 Village meeting. Please direct questions to Wyatt Marshall, Deputy Director of Environmental Health at wyatt.marshall@uchd.net.

Scope of Project

The Union County Health Department's scope of involvement in the Village of Magnetic Springs sanitary sewer project is limited and primarily relates to:

- the abandonment of existing private onsite sewage treatment systems (STS) upon connection of properties to the new sanitary sewer, and
- plumbing permits and consultations when plumbing modifications are necessary inside or at the structure to facilitate connection to the new sanitary sewer.

The following provides detailed information regarding each of the above elements.

Connection to the Sanitary Sewer: When is connection required?

If a property is located within the corporate limits of the Village of Magnetic Springs and has been identified by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) as part of the sanitary sewer project, the existing onsite sewage treatment system must be abandoned and the structure connected to the new sanitary sewer system. In these circumstances, connection is not optional and is required as part of the project implementation.

If a property is located outside the corporate limits of the Village of Magnetic Springs, but is situated along the proposed pressure main and/or sewer main alignment, connection may be available as an option depending upon project design and access considerations. However, for such properties, connection is not required solely on the basis of proximity to the proposed sanitary sewer infrastructure.

Financial Relief: Board of Health waiving several permit fees

The Board of Health recognizes the financial impact transitioning to the new sanitary sewer may have on residents. Thus, the Union County Board of Health adopted Resolution No. 2024:06,

“Village of Magnetic Springs Sewer Project”, to provide financial relief from the permitting fees related to the transition which fall under the Union County Health Department’s authority. These relief measures are available only during the active period of the project and will no longer be available after formal project closeout by the Village of Richwood, the Village of Magnetic Springs, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA). The resolution includes:

1. **Waiver of sewage treatment system abandonment permit fees** for structures connecting to the sanitary sewer system.
2. **Waiver of the first \$200 in plumbing permit fees (per household)** for structures that need plumbing work in order to connect to the sanitary sewer system.
3. **Issuance of a prorated refund, upon request, for a sewage treatment system operation permit**, prorated to the most recently completed year of the permit term.

Abandonment Permit: What happens to my onsite sewage treatment system

A property’s existing sewage treatment system must be properly abandoned once the structure is connected to the new sanitary sewer. A permit for abandonment of the system must be issued prior to abandonment work beginning. To apply for an abandonment permit, contact the Union County Health Department and complete a short application. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2024:06, the fee for the abandonment permit will be waived for properties associated with the Magnetic Springs sewer project while the sewer project is active.

Once the permit is issued, the septic tank is required to be pumped. Then, physical collapse or abandonment of the sewage treatment system can begin. A completion report, along with a copy of the tank pumping report, must be submitted to the Union County Health Department. This can be submitted by the property owner or contractor who performed the work. Health Department staff remain available to provide consultation and guidance to residents throughout this process.

Plumbing Permits: When are they needed

A plumbing permit is not explicitly required solely for the act of connecting a structure to the sanitary sewer. Plumbing permits are only required when plumbing must be rerouted within or at the structure in order to make the connection to the sanitary sewer functional and code-compliant.

The most common examples of plumbing work that would require a permit is rerouting of gray water and/or clear water. Examples of these include:

- **Gray water:** If fixtures and appliances – such as **dishwashers, showers, sinks, and washing machines** – do not currently drain to the building sewer and into the onsite sewage treatment system, a plumbing permit would be needed to reroute these fixtures and appliances so that they drain to the building sewer and into the new sanitary sewer. Improper routing of fixtures is often found in older homes, especially in remodeled basements. Property owners who are unsure of where these fixtures discharge may wish to investigate by looking outside the home for standing water that contains soap scum or visible soap bubbles. However, these issues are frequently not identified until excavation or further investigation by a plumbing contractor occurs.
- **Clear water:** Conversely, drainage sources for rain water, surface water and ground water should not drain into the building sewer, onsite sewage treatment system, or new sanitary sewer. The most common example of this is a **sump pump and downspouts**.

If residents have concerns regarding gray water discharge, clear water connections, or potentially improper plumbing arrangements, the Health Department can arrange a plumbing consultation through one of its plumbing inspectors.

Getting a Plumbing Permit if Needed

If it is determined plumbing work inside or at the structure must be performed, the permitting process is completed online through the Union County Health Department's permitting portal. Residents create a free account and then follow the application prompts to submit for the required plumbing permit.



Nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board

Health Department administrative and program staff are available to assist residents with navigating the online permitting process. As noted above, the first **\$200.00** of qualifying plumbing permit fees per household will be waived under Resolution No. 2024:06 while the sanitary sewer project is active. Except in unusual or case-specific circumstances, it is anticipated the plumbing permit costs associated with this project will fall below the \$200 threshold, such that permit fees would likely be fully covered.

Additionally, the Health Department can provide residents with a list of plumbing contractors currently registered in Union County so that property owners may consult with qualified professionals regarding any necessary work.

Summary

The Union County Health Department's involvement in the Village of Magnetic Springs sanitary sewer project is limited to matters associated with abandonment of existing private onsite sewage treatment systems and any related plumbing review, consultation, or permitting that may be necessary to facilitate proper connection to the public sanitary sewer system. The Health Department has also taken formal action through Board of Health Resolution No. 2024:06 to reduce or waive certain permitting fees as to provide limited financial relief to affected residents during the transition process.

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