

WATER AND WASTEWATER OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2015

The Water and Wastewater Office is currently staffed with 1 Supervisor, 1 Assistant Supervisor, 4 billing clerks and 3 meter readers. We have one less billing clerk due to a transfer out of our department. The office was updated with security features in 2013. A glass partition was installed at the front counter. A door locking system that only allows employees access to the office and six security cameras that record all the time were added. These changes have greatly improved the security of the office and the staff.

2015 By the Numbers

17,803 Water Customers
17,229 Sewer Customers
17,850 Remote Read Meters
4,982 Autopay Customers
11,898 Work Orders Processed
2,210 Meter Change Outs

<u>Type</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Payment Breakdown</u> <u>———\$———</u>
Checks	62,352	10,143,736
Autopay	22,335	3,132,681
Online	15,137	1,796,909
Cash	20,177	912,931
Credit Card	4,210	772,623
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Totals	124,211	16,758,880

COLLECTIONS

For the year 2015 the Water & Wastewater Office collected \$7,366,212 in water receipts and \$9,333,813 in Wastewater/Storm Water receipts. This is an increase of 1.2% or \$88,837 from 2014 water receipts and an increase of 0.9% or \$81,582 in wastewater/storm water receipts from 2014. Water consumption was up by 21,301 HCF (Hundred Cubic Feet) over 2014.

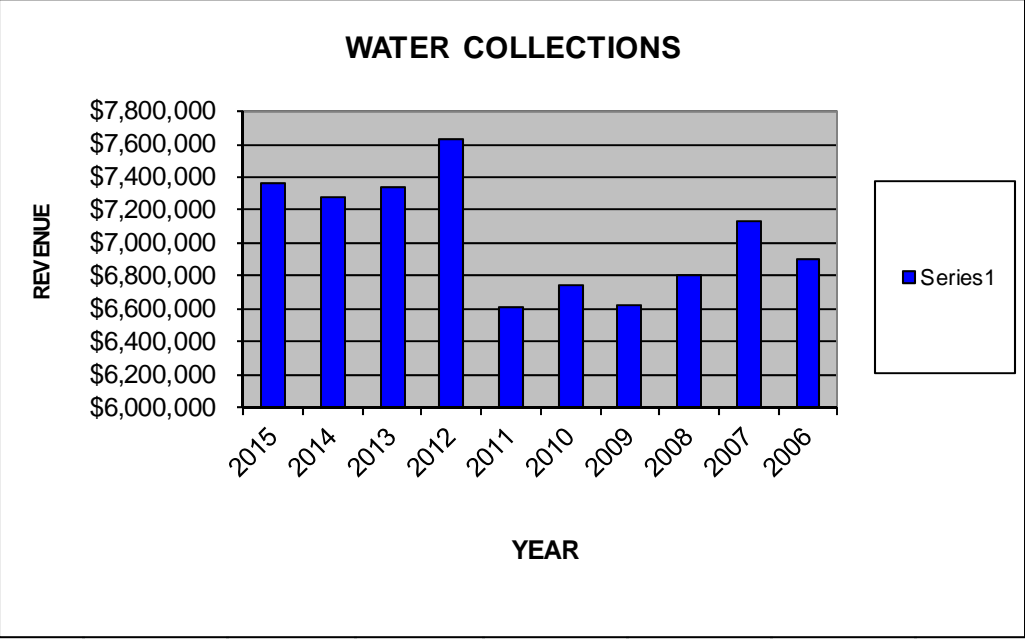
In January 2007, we implemented the collection of deposits for most of our new accounts. The only exceptions are land owners with prior acceptable credit with the Findlay Water Department or a current water department. The deposits have reduced the number of delinquencies that are sent to collection. The Water & Wastewater Office does not take cases to Small Claims Court because collecting the amounts due rarely happens. A tax lien is placed on the property for the amount owed.

In 2015, we wrote off \$1,397 in water, \$2,132 in sewer and \$281 in storm water. We collected \$79 in water, \$16 in sewer that was previously written off.

The following charts compare the collections for the year 2015 and the previous nine years.

WATER COLLECTIONS

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
JAN	536,282	488,539	564,226	532,670	540,065	483,531	458,939	476,405	515,289	497,603
FEB	581,323	593,691	552,053	594,938	508,351	557,410	548,758	595,967	558,862	596,057
MAR	584,292	578,357	572,897	570,467	502,300	537,334	519,923	520,887	540,677	557,556
APR	579,116	594,156	608,629	601,725	526,800	538,896	487,912	538,047	543,899	509,738
MAY	542,064	544,748	514,709	565,714	506,494	514,057	481,908	510,397	523,235	530,842
JUN	640,434	609,544	607,258	631,860	523,504	546,413	574,829	575,772	589,745	602,265
JUL	598,092	615,046	602,147	671,483	527,728	544,498	524,168	535,491	599,958	497,311
AUG	642,891	683,932	681,606	759,676	631,146	578,662	646,167	596,862	703,087	695,848
SEP	644,287	703,811	629,328	718,586	614,626	642,136	597,426	625,338	660,531	576,117
OCT	734,829	654,959	746,022	756,472	603,125	628,795	658,706	669,283	711,428	678,752
NOV	646,099	606,755	615,085	622,070	523,322	599,059	567,510	578,800	604,302	592,686
DEC	636,503	603,837	650,360	600,520	605,611	568,696	557,717	581,702	580,260	570,812
TOTAL	7,366,212	7,277,375	7,344,320	7,626,181	6,613,072	6,739,487	6,623,963	6,804,951	7,131,273	6,905,587



WASTEWATER COLLECTIONS

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
JAN	692,620	681,881	685,786	686,509	663,277	664,178	606,720	610,413	605,457	535,363
FEB	818,853	822,574	808,347	827,319	802,259	817,639	765,929	774,978	769,014	815,091
MAR	710,700	707,519	708,236	701,521	665,193	667,492	652,405	623,703	613,578	534,034
APR	821,379	811,976	805,596	812,120	831,500	802,507	776,696	739,891	770,208	782,840
MAY	714,049	703,770	686,225	691,019	670,893	666,187	622,945	623,735	631,961	532,821
JUN	825,439	821,675	833,554	843,206	793,770	806,712	776,189	757,477	757,433	802,820
JUL	722,676	727,106	706,359	728,299	686,644	685,440	674,061	629,758	639,094	560,893
AUG	851,603	850,489	855,552	892,390	834,340	826,793	838,562	765,310	827,743	843,517
SEP	737,182	728,654	736,534	745,179	718,637	709,462	700,746	657,766	686,290	588,748
OCT	872,823	848,596	862,274	874,420	823,102	833,758	837,491	807,728	809,030	802,611
NOV	728,043	723,952	722,637	715,288	686,447	699,054	714,728	649,425	666,602	655,471
DEC	838,446	824,039	821,745	836,312	810,792	823,169	819,850	753,543	746,974	751,912
TOTAL	9,333,813	9,252,231	9,232,845	9,353,582	8,986,854	9,002,391	8,786,322	8,393,727	8,523,384	8,206,121



WATER RATE HISTORIES

During the past twenty years the rates have changed as indicated below:

Water charges

1995 - 2% increase

1996 - no change

1997 - 15.4% increase - The capacity charge and minimum charge were incorporated into one charge. It is called the minimum charge and is adjusted according to the meter size under AWWA standards.

1998 - No change

1999 - No change

2000 - 2% increase

2001 - 3% increase (\$.05 per HCF)

2002 - 3.7% increase

2003 - 4% increase

2004 - No change

2005 - 4.6% increase (Nov 1, 2004)

2006 - 2.9% increase

2007 - No change

2008 - No change

2009 - 6.8% increase

2010 - No change

2011 - 5% increase (Oct 1, 2011) Minimum Charges Adjusted

2012 - No change

2013 - No change

2014 - No change

2015 - No change

WASTEWATER RATE HISTORIES

During the past twenty years the rates have changed as indicated below:

Wastewater charges

- 1997 - 7.8% increase - The customer charge and the minimum charge were incorporated into one charge. It is called the minimum charge and is adjusted according to meter size under the AWWA standards.
- 1998 - 1.5% increase (December 1, 1998)
- 1999 - No change
- 2000 - 14.7% increase
- 2001 - 14.1% increase
- 2002 - 11.5% increase
- 2003 - 11% increase
- 2004 - no change
- 2005 - 4.6% increase (Nov. 1, 2004)
- 2006 - 3% increase
- 2007 - No change
- 2008 - No change
- 2009 - 6.2% increase
- 2010 - No change
- 2011 - 3.5% increase (Oct 1, 2011) Minimum Charges Adjusted
- 2012 - No change
- 2013 - No change
- 2014 - No change
- 2015 - No change

GOALS FOR THE WATER & WASTEWATER OFFICE

Our customer service goals for the year 2015 at the Water & Wastewater Office are to continue providing quality service as in the past, but our technology goals continue to change. These goals are:

1. Strive to bill and collect all the monies owed to the Water & Wastewater Departments.
2. Try to be fair and just with all customers.
3. Make ourselves more accurate and utilize our time better, so the office will continue to operate at a very efficient level.
4. Provide accurate and timely meter readings.
5. Going green for utility bills through email options to our customers. This will reduce paper, postage and printing costs.
6. Keep abreast of all new technology in all aspects of the Water & Wastewater industry and try to incorporate them into our system.

I feel that we have met most of the goals in 2015 that are outlined above. We are working towards the others in implementing new technology. A few examples of how we met these goals are:

1. We are collecting deposits to start service with the Findlay Water & Wastewater Dept. The deposit is held and applied to the final bill for all of our rental accounts. On owner billed accounts, we are applying the deposit to accounts that have complied with our two year acceptable credit policy.
2. We continue to collect outstanding amounts owed through liens placed on the property. We filed 18 tax liens in 2015 that

were uncollectable through our collection letters and court policy.

3. We have assigned owner ID numbers. This will help us find all properties owned by the same person. If there is a dispute with an owner of a property, we can find all properties relating to the owner.
4. We are contracted with our billing software vendor for an upgrade to our billing program. This should take place at the beginning of 2016. There will be many challenges associated with the upgrade, but we hope there will be many benefits after the implementation.

After upgrading to our new billing software, I am still looking to go to monthly billing for all customers. Although we will have an increase in postage and printing charges, I feel that the benefits would outweigh the increased costs. We will be able to monitor water loss much more closely. It will reduce our bi-monthly customers' bills making it easier for them to budget. It will reduce our delinquencies by allowing us to disconnect for non-payment before the customer can accrue four months of charges. It will give us an accurate picture of our total monthly usage and allow us to compare to monthly output from the Water Treatment Plant. It will even out our billing and make revenue projections more accurate when setting rates due to no lag time for usage to catch up to our billing figures.

OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

Water and Wastewater collections are up for 2015. Water consumption is up from 2014. We are catching leaks much faster and notifying customers of excess usage. I anticipate 2016 collections to increase over 2015 as the economy for Findlay is on the rise.

We have one less person in the office which will mean we need to be more efficient with our time. With the new billing software upgrade, we are hoping to get more timely information at our finger tips.

I feel optimistic about the future of the Water & Wastewater Departments in the City of Findlay, Ohio. We are working together to build a working financial model for both departments that looks well into the future. We have a group of dedicated hard working employees that continue to make serving the citizens of Findlay and surrounding area their number one priority.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Adler

Utility Billing Supervisor