

MANTENO, IL: SEWER ACQUISITION LEADS TO INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES AND LOWER CUSTOMER COSTS

The Village of Manteno, Illinois, has delivered great benefits to customers and its local finances through the sale of its water infrastructure assets.

In 2018, the Village received \$25 million in proceeds from the sale of its sewer system to Aqua Illinois – a deal that Manteno Mayor Tim Nugent summarized at the time as “turning an asset of concrete into an asset of cash that we can invest and use for other projects.”

Following the sale, Manteno leaders placed the \$25 million in sale proceeds in an account to generate interest for local priorities. One initial benefit for residents of this move was the elimination of local garbage fees, saving households \$200 per year.

Thanks to Aqua’s strong regional footprint in Kankakee County, residents also benefit from lower operational costs. Over the first five years under Aqua ownership, Manteno residents will collectively pay \$800,000 less in sewer bills than they would have under Village ownership.

In addition, Aqua has executed millions of dollars in infrastructure upgrades that have enabled economic development in the surrounding areas. As an October 2020 news report on the completion of one project summarized: “The [\$3.8 million dollars in infrastructure upgrades] will aid in the development of industrial, commercial, and residential growth in the area.”

Mayor Nugent applauded Aqua’s investments as a “huge benefit for the region,” telling the local newspaper: “This multi-million-dollar investment by Aqua Illinois is another example of local utilities helping promote economic development in the Manteno and Bourbonnais region that will benefit all of Kankakee County.”

The Manteno sewer sale closed 12 years after the Village sold its troubled drinking water system to Aqua in 2006. Then and now, Manteno leaders see the transactions as providing benefits for residents while also locking in a stable financial future for the community.

“Working with Aqua has been great over the last 11 years. We’ve been able to do a lot of things in town that we would have never been able to do without the investment from Aqua,” said Mayor Nugent.

Sources

1. The Daily Journal, “Board agrees to sell sewer system for \$25M” 19 September 2017 ([link](#))
2. BusinessWire, “Aqua Illinois Completes Village of Manteno Wastewater System Acquisition” 5 July 2018 ([link](#))
3. The Country Herald, “Aqua Illinois completes \$3.8 million infrastructure project at I-57 Bourbonnais Interchange” 20 October 2020 ([link](#))
4. Aqua Illinois, “Letter to Manteno Village Customers” 2 July 2018 ([link](#))
5. Aqua America, “Video: Town Success Stories – Working with Aqua” 24 January 2019 ([link](#))