* **Response to July 25 Article on Lyons Water and Sewer Rate Hikes‏**





8/09/10



Andrew DeWolf

To Jim Miller, Sean McCracken, Editor Wayne Times, Louise Hoffman, R Schick

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| From: | **Andrew DeWolf** (dewolfap@hotmail.com) |
| Sent: | Mon 8/09/10 8:17 PM |
| To:  | Jim Miller (jmiller@fltimes.com); Sean McCracken (smccracken@fltimes.com) |
| Cc:  | Editor Wayne Times (waynetimes@aol.com); Louise Hoffman (lhoffman@wayuga.com); R Schick (rschick@lyonsbank.com) |
| Bcc:  | Brenda Vanduyne (bvanduyne188@msn.com); Dad&Donna DeWolf (dddewolf@yahoo.com); David DeWolf (dddewolf@peoplepc.com); Geraldine & Vern Burm (vburm@rochester.rr.com); Helen Camp (helencamp54@gmail.com); Kirsta DeWolf (kdewolf@courts.state.ny.us); LSWDEW (lswdew@verizon.net) |
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| Attachments:  | 4 attachments |
|  | yrly water rpt 07 08 09.pdf (1088.4 KB) , brown watr and sewer study 2010.pdf (2.7 MB) , yrly watr reports 04 05 06.pdf (1294.1 KB) , MINUTES August 3, 2010.doc (39.0 KB)  |

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Mr Jim Miller;

I want to thank you for running an article regarding the problems with Lyons Water & Sewers. The article was well written. I don't believe the mayor was very honest with you though regarding the numbers.... I hope to see your paper do a follow up story in the near future. Please note the Brown study shows a 48% water loss possibly exceeding 200,000 gallons per day as of April 2010! I also wanted to encourage you to review the official minutes from [www.villageoflyons.com](http://www.villageoflyons.com) for the minutes from July, and attached is the most recent meeting minutes....

I'm forwarding you some of the 800 pages of FOIL I received, namely the yearly water reports and the results of the Brown Study. The village had all of this information available at the time of your interview with them, but chose NOT to reveal it. In summary of the information, it shows her statements to be either ignorant of the facts, or misrepresenting them. The village has been losing money since 2004 with the water & sewer accounts showing deficits in 2004 and 2006 that needed bailouts. Parker Hannifen was still around then. The village was also aware of a major worsening water loss since 2004. They blame Parker for the loss due to the fact they were able to hide it using Parker Hannifen funds.

As I said, thank you very much for helping expose the major underlying infrastructure and administration deficiencies in Lyons Village. As a concerned citizen and taxpayer, I still value the ability of the press to help hold public officials accountable. Your paper and articles sure help in this manner.

Sincerely;

Andrew DeWolf
7 Sisson St
Lyons, NY 14489
315-398-1195



* **RE: village board mtg tonight‏**





7/21/10

Andrew DeWolf

To Brenda Vanduyne

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| From: | **Andrew DeWolf** (dewolfap@hotmail.com) |
| Sent: | Wed 7/21/10 7:27 AM |
| To:  | Brenda Vanduyne (bvanduyne188@msn.com) |

Bren;

As usual I was bigtime late getting home. What did I miss?

Andy

From: bvanduyne188@msn.com
Subject: village board mtg tonight
Date: Tue, 20 Jul 2010 14:05:53 -0400

hey guys, just a reminder there is a village board mtg tonight at 6 pm. I didn't make the 7/6 mtg and it seems they discussed the $100,000 loss in the water/sewer revenue and how the mayor want to raise/double our wat/sewr bills because they have not taken care of the leaking/loss problem-

the fact that parker is gone has NOTHING to do w/ our w/s bills. everyone pays for what they use. parker is not using water now- the village should not be pumping/buying that portion that parker used. that is a smoke screen. if we do nothing about this issue, the board will double you w/s bill soon-- don't let that happen. hope to see you there.

Bob- we met at the WuWC mtg in newark a month or so ago. hope to see you.

Brenda

also, there is a Tea Party mtg in Geneva tomorrow night at 7pm. if anyone is interested and needs a ride/directions, let me know.

Pray for American POW
PFC Bowe Bergdahl
Captured 6/09 Afghanistan
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-VLE8YSBUE>



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* [Back to messages](https://snt133.mail.live.com/mail/PrintMessages.aspx?cpids=610a7f11-5ca3-42c3-8b28-725933d7b50d,m&isSafe=true&FolderID=66666666-6666-6666-6666-666666666666)
* **FOIL Information from Village of Lyons‏**





8/17/10



Andrew DeWolf

To Gerry Clingerman, Brian Manktelow, Chuck Witt, Dan Lagasse, Editor Fingerlakes Times, editor Wayne County Star, Editor Wayne Times, Jim Miller, Sal Colatarci, Sean McCracken, Wayne County Star, Wharren Wheaton

|  |  |
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| From: | **Andrew DeWolf** (dewolfap@hotmail.com) |
| Sent: | Tue 8/17/10 9:28 AM |
| To:  | Gerry Clingerman (signbiz63@yahoo.com) |
| Cc:  | Brian Manktelow (lyonssupervisor@rochester.rr.com); Chuck Witt (chwitt@rochester.rr.com); Dan Lagasse (dlagasse@lagasseworks.com); Editor Fingerlakes Times (editor@fltimes.com); editor Wayne County Star (editor@wayuga.com); Editor Wayne Times (waynetimes@aol.com); Jim Miller (jmiller@fltimes.com); Sal Colatarci (townofly@rochester.rr.com); Sean McCracken (smccracken@fltimes.com); Wayne County Star (star@wayuga.com); Wharren Wheaton (warrenw@redsuspenders.com) |
| Bcc:  | Helen Camp (helencamp54@gmail.com); Jake Emmel (jemmel1952@hotmail.com); Jen & Jessie Strazzabosco (jjstrazz@yahoo.com); john wiltsie (wiltsiejohn@hotmail.com); LSWDEW (lswdew@verizon.net); Paul Fera (lyonsems@rochester.rr.com); R Schick (rschick@lyonsbank.com); Rose Pangburn (gingerbreadroses@yahoo.com); Scott VanDuyne (sdvanduyne@verizon.net); Sue Pullen (pullen69@verizon.net); Wendy Patnaude (wpatnaude@hotmail.com); Dad&Donna DeWolf (dddewolf@yahoo.com); David DeWolf (dddewolf@peoplepc.com); Kirsta DeWolf (kdewolf@courts.state.ny.us) |
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| Attachments:  | 5 attachments |
|  | Long range watr plan 04.pdf (936.2 KB) , yrly watr reports 04 05 06.pdf (1294.1 KB) , yearly watr rpts 07 08 09.pdf (1088.4 KB) , water sewer deficits.pdf (2.8 MB) , brown watr and sewer study 2010.pdf (2.7 MB)  |

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Gerry:

Here are the facts I obtained using the NYS Freedom of Information Law. I hope to disseminate and educate people about what's going on in thier village beyond what the officials in the Village Government wants them to know. The residents in the Village need to be concerned about major water loss and contamination in thier water supply system. I'm currently reviewing the bacteria testing information and will release that in the near future.

Item #1: from 2004 is a study conducted by the village with actual numbers. Includes water/sewer budget deficits greater than $100,000 then.
#2: Yearly mandated water reports from 2003-2006: notice that in 2003 there was only 12% unaccounted for water loss totalling 20 million gallons per year, 54,754 gallons per day. By 2006 there was 35% loss totalling 75 Million gallons per year, or 205,500 gallons per day lost.
#3: Yearly reports from 2007-2009 showing continued unabated severe water losses. Total water losses in 2009 were 75.8 million gallons, or 207,671 gallons per day.
#4: Emails between village officials and explanations of Deficits from 2006: You'll notice the village was well aware of projected deficits from 2005 onward, not just because we lost Parker Hannifen as the mayor has stated.
#5: "Brown" Study completed June 2010: Concludes losses continue of 190,000 to 200,000 gallons of water per day, now losing 48% of all water bought/pumped as of April 2010. Notes we are losing more water per year than we are buying. Losing 75 million gallons per year, buying 73 million gallons per year.

I have sent a letter to the board and Mayor asking for them to explain how they plan to acknowledge and correct these problems and to explain thier deficits better. They only reply I have received to date was what was posted in thier official minutes in the newspapers and online. I am now questioning whether a full audit should be performed from 2003 onward of all water/sewer accounts. You'll notice in the village's formal response in thier minutes that they have located 25 leaks to date (from when to when), and have corrected the problems and are moving forward to replace all water meters in the village. The mayor has also noticed everyone that the water/sewer rates will be raised to pay for all of this and cover a projected deficit of $115,000 this year.

Please pass this information on and consider contacting the village for further information. Anyone may also contact me: 315-398-1195 for questions. I hope to see everyone at the village board meetings. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of month at 6pm. They will not change the meeting times because they say 7pm or later is inconvenient for them and they don't get much attendance or pressure to change the meeting times.

Sincerely;
Andrew DeWolf
Resident/Taxpayer
7 Sisson St, Lyons



* **Request for Comptroller Office to perform an Audit of Village of Lyons NY - Attention Linda Ferguson ; Part 1‏**



8/17/10

Andrew DeWolf

To muni-rochester@osc.state.ny.us

|  |  |
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| From: | **Andrew DeWolf** (dewolfap@hotmail.com) |
| Sent: | Tue 8/17/10 1:26 PM |
| To:  | muni-rochester@osc.state.ny.us |
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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Attachments:  | 5 attachments |
|  | Annual Financial report 09.pdf (2.0 MB) , brown watr and sewer study 2010.pdf (2.7 MB) , FOIL emails.pdf (178.3 KB) , funds and accounting.pdf (9.9 MB) , Long range watr plan 04.pdf (936.2 KB)  |

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NYS Office of State Comptroller;
Local Government and School Accountability Division:
Mr Ed Grant, Director c/o Mrs. Linda Ferguson:

As a resident and taxpayer of the Village of Lyons NY, I am requesting that your office conduct a full audit of the Village of Lyons, especially the Water & Sewer Funds. I have found out that since 2003, the water and sewer funds have faced deficits in almost every year, with escalating water loss within the village. According to records I obtained via FOIL, the village has been aware of this problem, and has had to "bail out" the funds numerous times since 2003. The mayor reports a pending $115,000 deficit this year. The Mayor and Village board report thier deficits are due to losing a local business at the end of 2009 that utilized a major amout of village water. Review of the records provided via FOIL show an underlying problem with the funds and major water losses since 2003, not late 2009. Whether these continuous deficits are due to mismanagement, as it appears in the "Brown Report", or due to illegal activity of some kind, is what I'm asking your office to ascertain. The village taxpayers now must find the funds to deal with major infrastructure repairs with impending large water and sewer rate hikes. I believe the taxpayers deserve answers and to know that this is not due to theft or fraud of any kind. I hope your office can sort this out and help the village get back on better financial footing.

With the structure of our local government, and it's intimate ties to 3 non-profit agencies in the village, I'm also concerned that there may be further "weaknesses" in the local financial system, and I respectfully request your agency look into Village Funds being transferred to "Lyons Community Center Inc." (which has since gone bankrupt and closed); Lyons Heritage Society (which has refused to formally release it's financial records) ; and Lyons Main Street Program (which shares spouses and close friends of many on the local village board, and members of Lyons Main Street sit on many village subcommitees). The village recently decided to acquire and maintain a historic building in the village on behalf of the Lyons Heritage Society for 50 years even with projected deficits and possible tax increases needed for the foreseable future. Combining close ties with apparent poor fiscal management on the face of it, it appears as though our village may be in very poor financial shape.

Attached to the next few emails will be FOIL records regarding the water&sewer departments, and regarding the Hotchkiss Rescue and acquisition. As you will note, at one point 4 taxpayer funded entities joined forces to pursue the village acquiring Hotchkiss, but 3 backed out with the public scrutiny. That should raise questions as well. I hope your office will help OPEN THE WINDOWS AND LET IN THE LIGHT OF DAY, and reassure us that this village is on sound financial footing, and no fraud or blatant mismanagement is occurring.

Sincerely;

Andrew P DeWolf
7 Sisson St

Lyons, NY 14489



* **Request for Comptroller Office to perform an Audit of Village of Lyons NY - Attention Linda Ferguson ; Part 2‏**

8/17/10



Andrew DeWolf

To NYS Comptroller - Rochester

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| From: | **Andrew DeWolf** (dewolfap@hotmail.com) |
| Sent: | Tue 8/17/10 1:31 PM |
| To:  | NYS Comptroller - Rochester (muni-rochester@osc.state.ny.us) |
|  |

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| --- | --- |
| Attachments:  | 4 attachments |
|  | Stimulus and water grants.pdf (9.3 MB) , water sewer deficits.pdf (2.8 MB) , yrly watr reports 04 05 06.pdf (1294.1 KB) , yearly watr rpts 07 08 09.pdf (1088.4 KB)  |

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Files regarding water/sewer FOIL continued. Please note in the annual water reports that there was only a 12% water loss in 2003 with projected fund deficits. Per the Brown Study, as of April 2010 we are losing 48 % of our water supply and showing severe projected deficits for the future.



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* **Water Department Discussion‏**

9/02/10



Andrew DeWolf

To Ronald DeMena III

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| From: | **Andrew DeWolf** (dewolfap@hotmail.com)https://snt133.mail.live.com/mail/clear.gif |
| Sent: | Thu 9/02/10 5:05 PM |
| To:  | Ronald DeMena III (ron.demena@31networks.com) |

Hey Ron:

It's Andy DeWolf, we chatted Friday night at Jamie Syrett's dinner. You taught me alot in only 10 minutes.... hope you can add to it!

It's amazing I found a genius who also happens to be Water Department Trustee that happens to understand the problems!!!!!

Can you explain how you discovered the water loss, where it was occurring, and how you funded the repairs? Any resources or references that I can refer to?
Can you explain the billing systems you mentioned and cubic feet versus gallons?
Do you know of any way to test from above ground for water loss in our 100+ yr old system?
Are you familier with the types of meters, including the 'smart' ones Geneva implemented? Can you explain them vs traditional meters?

Any and all information you are willing to share is appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your help;

Andrew DeWolf
7 Sisson St
Lyons, NY 14489
315-398-1195

9/08/10

[Ronald DeMena III](https://snt133.mail.live.com/mail/)

Let’s say we have a rising water rate of $4.00 now at the county level which we do. Wholesale is still the same for the Village to purchase the water. The village is raising the water rate to attempt

To 'Andrew DeWolf'

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| From: | Ron DeMena (ron.demena@31networks.com)https://snt133.mail.live.com/mail/clear.gif |
| Sent: | Wed 9/08/10 8:54 AM |
| To:  | 'Andrew DeWolf' (dewolfap@hotmail.com) |

Let’s say we have a rising water rate of $4.00 now at the county level which we do. Wholesale is still the same for the Village to purchase the water. The village is raising the water rate to attempt to recover for its losses rather than isolating expenses.

Assuming it takes 2 people to operate the water system ($50,000/year x 2 = $100,000 for employees & benefits) as a year round average given it shouldn’t be laborious except when something goes wrong.

Then lets figure our system has 100 hyrdrants at $500/hydrant = $50000, 4 miles of pipe at $4 Million to include valves, couplings, and remaining components. And a tank that is worth $500,000.

Now we address meters which last only 20 years = number of units ~ 1000 at $150/meter = $150000/total value

That brings us to replacement cost of infrastructure in let’s say 40 years (again these are very loosely applied / grossly applied estimates just for example). Other items may need replacement sooner but since pipes are to average 40 years it’s a rough estimate.

So Breaking down the budget

Each Year you need to recover for

- Employees = $100,000 per year

- Meter Costs = $150,000/20 = $7500 per year

- Remaining Infrastructure = $4.55 Milion/40 = $113,750/year

- Improvement Funds = $10,000/year

- Water Testing = $1000/year

Now profits should exist only from the variable rates to ensure you always break even.

Based on the per year charges you need to distribute across 1000 residents in this example $232,250/year = $232.25 per resident = $58.07 / Per Quarter separate from the water rate. This allows you to collect everything from the system based on a flat fee and drop the water rate to the bulk rate you receive from the WCWSA. I believe ours is somewhere around $2.20 or $2.30/1000 gallons. Now if the village purchases 6 Million gallons a month at $2.50 = $15,000/month and charges $4.00/1000 gallons, then you can expect a $1.50 profit for every $1000 gallons.

So figure $180k per year spent on 72 Million Gallons Averaged, Billing for $24,000/month on a perfect water system you can have a profit as high as $108k which will help you lower your base fee or water rate, or move the improvement fund to be covered by the water rate variability.

Let’s assume we lose 25% of our water. If we can collect as much as $25k / month, but we only bill 4.5 Million gallons, we can only collect $18,000, which allows us to still collect $36k/year in profits on average. 20 to 25% water loss is ok when you collect for your infrastructure elsewhere. If you do not then you are pissing your revenues good bye.

At some point you will need to make the bridge to getting on track otherwise handing it over the WCWSA will potentially be more if not just as expensive as doing it yourself. The difference is with the utility in the village hands you have an opportunity for th expenses to come back to your own pockets. You can use water system profits for other developments in the village.

--Ron









9/08/10

[Andrew DeWolf](https://snt133.mail.live.com/mail/)





Andrew DeWolf

dewolfap@hotmail.com

Ron; Well articulated. Can you explain answer 3 further? "We are doing this by separating the cost of infrastructure and operation from the water rate." Thanks; Andy

To Ronald DeMena III

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| --- | --- |
| From: | Andrew DeWolf (dewolfap@hotmail.com)https://snt133.mail.live.com/mail/clear.gif |
| Sent: | Wed 9/08/10 6:24 AM |
| To:  | Ronald DeMena III (ron.demena@31networks.com) |

Ron;

Well articulated.

Can you explain answer 3 further? "We are doing this by separating the cost of infrastructure and operation from the water rate."

Thanks;
Andy





9/07/10

[Ronald DeMena III](https://snt133.mail.live.com/mail/)

ron.demena@31networks.com

[Send email](https://mail.live.com/?rru=compose%3faction%3dcompose%26to%3dron.demena@31networks.com&ru=https%3A%2F%2Fsnt133.mail.live.com%2Fmail%2FInboxLight.aspx%3Fn%3D364316115%26pdir%3DNextPage%26paid%3D05c19ecf-da83-49b4-ba35-a86497a22ed6%26pad%3D2011-01-27T13%253A46%253A24.213Z%26pidx%3D-1%26st%3DWater%2520loss)

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[View details](https://profile.live.com/cid-e3d3bdfe2241a0b3/details/?contactId=49b28ad5-57da-45b6-a7a3-31c0ba976233)

Andy, in response to the questions you provided for comment… I will do my best to explain this in layman terms, and with some necessary engineering concepts. Your questions: 1. Can you explain how you

To 'Andrew DeWolf'

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| From: | Ron DeMena (ron.demena@31networks.com)https://snt133.mail.live.com/mail/clear.gif |
| Sent: | Tue 9/07/10 5:49 PM |
| To:  | 'Andrew DeWolf' (dewolfap@hotmail.com) |

Andy, in response to the questions you provided for comment…

I will do my best to explain this in layman terms, and with some necessary engineering concepts.

Your questions:

1. Can you explain how you discovered the water loss?

We discovered the water loss when revenues were no longer compensating for the operational expenses, and when increasing the water rate no longer compensated (a bad means to reaching the conclusion)

2. Where it was occurring?

Primarily we found it to occur where any one of several things happened. We found springs of water in winter and summer by pipe intersections where old valves which are no longer manufactured have failed, broke their seals, and more. Pipes themselves did not seem to be the significant culprit. Tank overflows were a big hurt as well.

3. How did you fund the repairs?

We are working to fund the repairs now, and to perform migration of our system towards a self-sufficient state. We are doing this by separating the cost of infrastructure and operation from the water rate. It is bad business to try and recover for costs of meters, curb stops, pipes, valves, couplings, hydrants, and tanks in the water rate which is variable. The taxpayer could move from filtering their own water to drinking bottled water and significantly reduce our revenues as an example.

4. Can you explain the billing systems you mentioned and cubic feet versus gallons?

Billing pisses me off the most because it is always a problem. Water Meters record flow in measurements of Cubic Feet or Gallons. What needs to be comprehended is consumed water vs. billed water vs. unbilled water vs. unaccounted water (estimated consumptions vs. actual water loss. 1 cubic foot = 7.48051948 US gallons

My definitions are: (consumed – billed – unbilled – unaccounted = water loss)

- Consumed Water is the total amount of water drawn or purchased

- Billed Water is the total amount of water which was billed out to customers based on their individual meter readings

- Unbilled Water is the total amount of water in which we have measured actual use but do not bill because of it being used for the service itself or other Village uses

- Unaccounted Water is the total water (typically not measured, but is estimated by the FD with regards to use for training from hydrant taps or truck fills)

- Water loss is any water that has no record of consumption by reasonable means

The best helper in understanding volumes and finances are to chart and compare everything of good reason.

5. Do you know of any way to test from above ground for water loss in our 100+ yr. old system?

This is just like checking for breathing: Look, Listen, & Feel. Look for obvious signs of random springs of water, overflowing towers, wet roads, swampy lawns, unusual water run-off. Have the water lines walked by a professional when your own operator is not finding anything. Listen to hydrants, valves, pipes, etc. to identify flow when there should be none. Feel for problems operating valves, are they sticky, hard to turn, won’t turn… FIX THEM!

6. Are you familiar with the types of meters, including the 'smart' ones Geneva implemented?

There are tens to hundreds of different meters. I am not familiar with “Smart meters” other than the fact that they measure differently at different times to attempt encouragement of using resources during appropriate times of days.

7. Can you explain them vs traditional meters?

I.E. water use at night is cheaper than day (off peak vs. peak) where an owner can surely water during the day but will spend 3 times as much during the day than at night.

I hope these answer your questions. Now regarding the extra references you want. The Village of Lyons should have a water system log of all the water flows and tests performed. You are FOIA permitted to sit and view them at no cost or to purchase copies at reasonable cost. It’s best to review and request specifics if possible.

I can work with whomever in the Village of Lyons wants to collaborate to address what we are doing and how, as well as my suggestions.

I could write a full blown dissertation on this and the methods to resolution but I think that’s better left to another day. (in a public official capacity, my e-mail for the village of macedon is rdemena@villageofmacedon.orgwhich forwards to ron@demena.net) Please share my Village e-mail forward to whomever you wish to share this discussion with.

--Ron





9/02/10

[Andrew DeWolf](https://snt133.mail.live.com/mail/)

Hey Ron: It's Andy DeWolf, we chatted Friday night at Jamie Syrett's dinner. You taught me alot in only 10 minutes.... hope you can add to it! It's amazing I found a genius who also happens to be Wate

To Ronald DeMena III

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| From: | dewolfap@hotmail.comhttps://snt133.mail.live.com/mail/clear.gif |
| Sent: | Thu 9/02/10 5:05 PM |
| To:  | Ronald DeMena III |

Hey Ron:

It's Andy DeWolf, we chatted Friday night at Jamie Syrett's dinner. You taught me alot in only 10 minutes.... hope you can add to it!

It's amazing I found a genius who also happens to be Water Department Trustee that happens to understand the problems!!!!!

Can you explain how you discovered the water loss, where it was occurring, and how you funded the repairs? Any resources or references that I can refer to?
Can you explain the billing systems you mentioned and cubic feet versus gallons?
Do you know of any way to test from above ground for water loss in our 100+ yr old system?
Are you familier with the types of meters, including the 'smart' ones Geneva implemented? Can you explain them vs traditional meters?

Any and all information you are willing to share is appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your help;

Andrew DeWolf
7 Sisson St
Lyons, NY 14489
315-398-1195

* **Release of Recent Village of Lyons Minutes, Village formal version and witnessed version‏**





11/13/10

Andrew DeWolf

To Editor Fingerlakes Times, editor Wayne County Star, Editor Wayne Times, Brian Manktelow

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| From: | **Andrew DeWolf** (dewolfap@hotmail.com) |
| Sent: | Sat 11/13/10 2:25 PM |
| To:  | Editor Fingerlakes Times (editor@fltimes.com); editor Wayne County Star (editor@wayuga.com); Editor Wayne Times (waynetimes@aol.com) |
| Cc:  | Brian Manktelow (lyonssupervisor@rochester.rr.com) |
| Bcc:  | Brenda Vanduyne (bvanduyne188@msn.com); Dad&Donna DeWolf (dddewolf@yahoo.com); David DeWolf (dddewolf@peoplepc.com); Geraldine & Vern Burm (vburm@rochester.rr.com); Gerry Clingerman (signbiz63@yahoo.com); Helen Camp (helencamp54@gmail.com); Jen & Jessie Strazzabosco (jjstrazz@yahoo.com); John Murtari (jmurtari@thebook.com); LSWDEW (lswdew@verizon.net); Sal Colatarci (townofly@rochester.rr.com); Sue Pullen (pullen69@verizon.net); Wendy Patnaude (wpatnaude@hotmail.com) |

Dear editor;

With the recent media coverage this summer of massive water losses inside the village of Lyons with projected massive deficits, and subsequent village actions and response, please review the attached village minutes and additional witnessed notes from the October 21'st Special Meeting regarding the Water Loss. The village reports they were delayed in releasing the minutes to the papers. It appears when the minutes were released, the October 21 minutes were not included. With 4,000 readers inside the village of Lyons and such major infrastructure problems, it does appear that these minutes are warranted being printed/released for public education.

The village HAS found and repaired a massive leak on Route 31 near Kinney Drugs. The village is exploring shutting down all water production and switching over to Wayne County Water Authority. The concerns about massive water loss and repair of infrastructure will still be present no matter who provides the water. Revealed in the Stu Brown Water Study, the multi year and growing deficits starting in 2004 were not considered significant until late 2009 with the announcement of Parker Hannifen closing. This was due to Parker Hannifen subsidizing the village and allowing a status quo towards infrastructure problems. Therefore it IS in the public's best interest to be educated about the problems and attend the meetings.

Respectfully submitted;

Andrew DeWolf
resident/taxpayer
7 Sisson St, Lyons NY 14489

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| * [MINUTES November 2, 2010.doc](http://cid-e3d3bdfe2241a0b3.skydrive.live.com/redir.aspx?page=view&resid=E3D3BDFE2241A0B3%21153&type=3&Bpub=SDX.Docs&Bsrc=Docmail&parid=E3D3BDFE2241A0B3%21152&authkey=powHcOmd3bo%24)
* [MINUTES October 21,2010.doc](http://cid-e3d3bdfe2241a0b3.skydrive.live.com/redir.aspx?page=view&resid=E3D3BDFE2241A0B3%21154&type=3&Bpub=SDX.Docs&Bsrc=Docmail&parid=E3D3BDFE2241A0B3%21152&authkey=powHcOmd3bo%24)
* [Summary of October 21.doc](http://cid-e3d3bdfe2241a0b3.skydrive.live.com/redir.aspx?page=view&resid=E3D3BDFE2241A0B3%21155&type=3&Bpub=SDX.Docs&Bsrc=Docmail&parid=E3D3BDFE2241A0B3%21152&authkey=powHcOmd3bo%24)

[**Download all**](http://cid-e3d3bdfe2241a0b3.skydrive.live.com/redir.aspx?page=downloadaszip&resid=E3D3BDFE2241A0B3%21152&type=6&Bpub=SDX.Docs&Bsrc=Docmail&authkey=powHcOmd3bo%24)  |

Andrew shared [3 online files](http://cid-e3d3bdfe2241a0b3.skydrive.live.com/redir.aspx?page=browse&resid=E3D3BDFE2241A0B3%21152&type=6&Bpub=SDX.Docs&Bsrc=Docmail&authkey=powHcOmd3bo%24) with you and they're saved on SkyDrive. To view these files, just click the links above.

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* [Full view](https://snt133.mail.live.com/mail/PrintMessages.aspx?cpids=51def550-2a10-42e2-b2eb-076dbb4bbf67,m&isSafe=true&FolderID=66666666-6666-6666-6666-666666666666)
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* **Request for clarification of items in 5/3 minutes; Police Chief; Recent Board Decisions Feedback‏**



5/24/11

Andrew DeWolf

To Corrine Kleisle, Denise Darcangelis, Richard Evangelist, Terry Vanstean

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| From: | **Andrew DeWolf** (dewolfap@hotmail.com)https://snt133.mail.live.com/mail/clear.gif |
| Sent: | Tue 5/24/11 9:25 AM |
| To:  | Corrine Kleisle (svillag3@rochester.rr.com); Denise Darcangelis (clerk@rochester.rr.com); Richard Evangelist (richarde@rochester.rr.com); Terry Vanstean (vanstean@gmail.com) |

Dear Madame Mayor/Village of Lyons Board:

Please explain further the reason for entering executive session as stated below:

"RESOLVED that executive session be declared at 7:38 P.M. to discuss Wayne County

Industrial Development negotiations for the sale of industrial property."

Additionally: It is my understanding you and the board will be considering replacements for a new police chief once the interim appointment is concluded. Please consider Officer Jeff Shields for the position. He is a well respected officer in the village with strong village connections.

Further: I want to applaud the decision of the you and the board on a few decisions and thank you for working in the best interests of the village residents. I strongly applaud your decision to immediately deed the Hotchkiss Building to the Heritage Soceity and not keep it on the Village books/liability. I also strongly endorse your decisions to pursue full replacement of water/sewer mains on Montezuma Street. I'm relieved and excited to see the village tackle the water loss issues aggressively.

I do retain very strong concerns about your decision to discontinue producing village water and instead opt to buy all of our water, especially given that we have not SOLVED our water loss problems yet. I am additionally concerned that the issues regarding redundancy of systems and inputs have yet to be resolved. I find myself agreeing with Terry VanStean that we need to address all of these concerns prior to final commitments on ceasing all water production. I hope you and the board will take steps to keep the village residents educated about the process and how you plan to proceed. I also hope you and the board will decide to hold a public information session where you can educate the residents and allow them to ask questions respectfully.

Thank you all for your continued service to our community. I look forward to your reply and explanations.

Sincerely and respectfully;

Andrew DeWolf
7 Sisson St
Lyons, NY 14489



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* **Letter to the Editor‏**





8/30/11



Andrew DeWolf

To Editor Wayne Times, Editor Fingerlakes Times, Wayne County Star, editor@thelakeshorenews.com, dceditpage@democratandchronicle.com

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| From: | **Andrew DeWolf** (dewolfap@hotmail.com) |
| Sent: | Tue 8/30/11 5:53 PM |
| To:  | Editor Wayne Times (waynetimes@aol.com); Editor Fingerlakes Times (editor@fltimes.com); Wayne County Star (star@wayuga.com); editor@thelakeshorenews.com; dceditpage@democratandchronicle.com |
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| Attachments:  | 3 attachments |
|  | Aug 30 Letter to Editor regarding water rate increases.docx (13.0 KB) , Village of Lyons Water and Sewer Rates.pdf (27.9 KB) , NYS Comptroller Audit of Water and Sewer.pdf (529.1 KB)  |

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Dear Editor:

Attached is an enclosed letter to the editor along with some additional information for your papers. Please let me know if you were unable to open any attachments.
I know that at 4500 people, the village of Lyons is only a small component of your circulations, but I believe the issues addressed here could be argued to apply anywhere. I know many villages and Towns inside of Wayne County have struggled with similar issues to those addressed in this letter.

Essentially: The water&sewer users in Lyons are facing approximately 30 - 50% increases in costs this year, along with a proposal to make it easier for the village to raise the rates without resident input. The village makes some claims about why, but essentially ignored a massive water loss since 2003 that grew to 42% or more of total output. Now village users basically have no choice in rate increases. The goal is to explain why we are in this mess, who's responsible, and where do we go from here. Further, my goal is to change the elected officials priorities and have them focus on thier essential duties.

I look forward to resolving any concerns or questions.
Please feel free to contact me via email or via phone. (315)-398-1195.

Andrew Dewolf
7 Sisson St
Lyons, NY 14489



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* **RE: Interview regarding your concerns about village water system‏**





9/01/11



Andrew DeWolf

To Mike Costanza Wayuga Papers and Lake Shore News

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| From: | **Andrew DeWolf** (dewolfap@hotmail.com) |
| Sent: | Thu 9/01/11 2:34 PM |
| To:  | Mike Costanza Wayuga Papers and Lake Shore News (mike.costanza@wayuga.com) |
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| Attachments:  | 7 attachments |
|  | 2007 to 2011 water in vesus loss.pdf (38.2 KB) , Village of Lyons Water and Sewer Rates.pdf (27.9 KB) , NYS Comptroller Audit of Water and Sewer.pdf (529.1 KB) , Water Purchases(1) thru Aug 2011.xlsx (11.5 KB) , water letter to village.doc (26.5 KB) , yrly water rpt 07 08 09.pdf (1088.4 KB) , brown watr and sewer study 2010.pdf (2.7 MB)  |

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Mike;

Thank you very much for the interview regarding water loss and rate increases in the Village of Lyons. Attached is follow up information originally obtained via FOIL. Some of the information is now Public.

Attachment #1: Was just emailed to me by the village today. I obtained the most recent loss by using the April-July 2011 numbers. 36,093,000 water into the system, 21,093,000 consumed. That leaves 15,890,000 unaccounted for or Lost. Dividing the lost by the total into the system gives us 43% loss.

Attachment #2: This is the letter from the village to the users. My calculations of increases come from the current rates for inside and outside village users. Inside users pay #33 base rate, then $4.70 per 1000 thereafter. Outside users pay $53 base, then $6.50.

Attachment #3: I believe you mentioned you already have a copy of the NYS Audit, attached in case.

Attachment #4: These were the most recent numbers provided by the village until today. I averaged the month of July 2011 to obtain average daily use, then applied the 28% approximated loss figured by the NYS Audit from January 2011 to reasonably arrive at a daily loss number of gallons.

Attachment #5: Letter I sent to the village in 2010 regarding the water losses. I then followed up with a written request to NYS Comptroller to request an audit be performed.

Attachment #6: Copies of Yearly water reports submitted to NYS.

**Attachment #7:** FOIL EMAILS and a copy of the Brown Study, which the village commissioned. Note...: Brown study calculated an average daily loss of 190,000 to 200,000 per day for 2010. Since the Brown Study, the village has been aggressively trying to find and fix leaks in the system and controll losses. The Brown Study is where the information regarding Parker Hannifen is located, along with graphs and analysis to back up thier findings. My assertion that Parker Hannifen was subsidizing the water fund originates directly from this report. My assumption that the village did not have incentive to act until they had to subsidize the losses also originates here. The Brown Study was commissioned to find out why the village taxpayers had to keep putting in between $200,000 and $300,000 into the system yearly since 2006 I believe.

I have alot more information. Please advise me if you need further.

Sincerely:

Andrew DeWolf

7 Sisson St

Lyons NY 14489

