

**Village of Mantua, Ohio
RESOLUTION 2012-66**

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE
INCREASED NEED FOR FUNDING FOR WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE AND TO BRING THE SUBJECT OF
“WATER INFRASTRUCTURE” INTO NATIONAL
DISCUSSION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

WHEREAS, Ohio’s vast water resources are vital to 11 million Ohioans for drinking, swimming, fishing, farming, recreation and industrial production, and Ohio is home to more than 29,000 miles of streams and rivers, a 451-mile border on the Ohio River, more than 5,000 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs (>1 acre), and 236 miles of Lake Erie shoreline. Ohio has 10 scenic rivers comprising more than 629 river miles, the fourth largest total of any state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, these critical resources are now in peril because many treatment systems are old and exceed their designed life; need enhancements to meet federal standards; or need to be upgraded in order to control storm water, combined sewer and/or sanitary overflows; and

WHEREAS, earlier investment in wastewater and drinking water infrastructure resulted in marked improvements in water quality and public health protection and this improvement would be put at serious risk without further investment; and

WHEREAS, well-maintained systems contribute substantially to our citizens’ general welfare and the State’s prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the gap between needs and expenditures for wastewater, storm water, and drinking water, according to multiple reports is estimated at \$21 billion for Ohio’s wastewater/water infrastructure over the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, this funding gap does not include anticipated expenditures to comply with new Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, new responsibilities and costs relating to water security, source water protection or additional needs for re-use of treated effluent; and

WHEREAS, since 2004 the federal government has reduced funding for Ohio’s vital wastewater infrastructure by 50%, while funding for drinking water infrastructure has been cut by 40%, shifting the burden of paying for this infrastructure onto local governments; and

WHEREAS, Ohio’s water quality monitoring data indicates that 48% of the waters sampled do not meet or are at risk of not meeting the fishable and swimmable goals of the federal Clean Water Act, often due to sewage, combined sewer overflows and/or urban and storm water runoff; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that between 30,000 and 47,500 jobs are created for each \$1 billion of federal investment in infrastructure projects, providing an unparalleled opportunity for economic recovery and long-term growth in Ohio’s communities; and

WHEREAS, municipal resources dedicated to water infrastructure are currently overwhelmingly directed to compliance with new and ever more complex federal mandates and are therefore unavailable for critical maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation needs; and

Village of Mantua, Ohio
RESOLUTION 2012-66

WHEREAS, investment in water infrastructure is an investment in America – it creates high-quality jobs to repair, replace and upgrade our aging drinking water, wastewater and other water-related systems; it is essential to economic vitality and spurs economic growth by ensuring safe and reliable water and wastewater systems to attract and retain industry, business and qualified workers; it is critical to protect public health and our quality of life; and it drives research and innovation in new water technologies to be used in the US and around the world; and

WHEREAS, through work of the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation, effort has been made to develop a new funding bill called WIFIA (Water Infrastructure Funding Initiative Act) proposed by Congressman Bob Gibbs of Ohio. This bill would provide funding through the US Treasury to supplement the existing State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Village of Mantua, Ohio, a two-thirds or more of the members elected thereto concurring, that:

SECTION 1: The Council of the Village of Mantua, Ohio urges the Congress of the United States of America and the President to understand the importance of water infrastructure to public health and economic vitality and elevate this subject into national discussion during the summer and fall of 2012.

SECTION 2: The Council of the Village of Mantua, Ohio urges the Congress of the United States of America and the President to reverse the current decline in infrastructure spending and develop a funding option that makes sense and restores greatness to America through investment in water infrastructure.

SECTION 3: The Council of the Village of Mantua, Ohio urges Congress and the President to enact new legislation which provides adequate and reliable long-term funding for municipal water infrastructure needs to help close the funding gap. This funding shall be used solely to address water infrastructure needs and must not rely on traditional sources of revenue, such as a federal tax on water or sewer charges.

SECTION 4: It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this Ordinance were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 5: This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency measure in order that it may be returned to the Ohio Water Environment Association at the earliest possible time, and therefore shall become effective immediately upon its passage by this Council.

Passed in Council this 25th day of October, 2012.

**Village of Mantua, Ohio
RESOLUTION 2012-66**

ATTEST:

Mayor Linda Clark

Clerk

I hereby certify the above Ordinance was posted at the five (5) public notice locations in the Village of Mantua, Ohio, on the _____ day of _____, 2012.

Clerk

Approved as to Legal Form:

Michele A. Stuck, Solicitor