



## Riverdale may file suit against sewerage authority

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The governing body may consider legal action against the Pequannock River Basin Regional Sewerage Authority (PRBRSA).

For more than 10 years, tests and studies have been performed to check the sewer lines, but none have been able to find the cause of the borough's inflow and infiltration (I&I) problem.

While the measured amount of water entering and leaving the borough should be relatively level, Riverdale has seen an excess in the quantity of water on its way out of town. This excess has cost the borough thousands of dollars over the years. Riverdale has paid anywhere from \$43,000 to \$217,000 in additional charges to the PRBRSA.

At the Aug. 12 Borough Council meeting, Mayor William Budesheim said the borough had to pay \$65,000 in additional charges for 2014.

Earlier this year, the borough hired Boswell Engineering of Hackensack at a price of up to \$42,000 to perform a forensic study on the system. The study of the sewer is still ongoing.

At the meeting, the mayor said, "When we retained them, they were instructed that they would have to defend their findings in court. Because if we can't find their I&I, they are going to have to go to court and convince the judge there is no I&I [problem] and we are being billed for it."

In the past, municipal officials have contended that since no I&I issues have been found, the problem has to be with the meters.

PRBRSA engineer Dan Kelly said the authority has checked the meters, and an independent company, ADS Environmental Services of Alabama, reads the meters.

"The meters ... are as accurate as this kind of metering can possibly be," said Kelly.

He was surprised to hear that Riverdale would consider legal action against the PRBRSA.

"The I&I is definitely coming into the system, so it is a matter of finding where it's coming from and hopefully fixing it," he said. "That was what I thought was the objective, not to go to court with the authority."

Kelly said the authority has been dealing with this I&I problem too.

"We've checked our pipes that run through Riverdale and found that they are tight, nothing of any significance, every pipe has some I&I. We found our pipes are in good condition and therefore by default the I&I must be primarily within Riverdale's collection system."

Kelly said he hopes Riverdale finds the problem.

"It is our hope, for Riverdale's sake and everybody's sake, because I&I ... takes capacity away from the system," he said. "If that extraneous flow can be removed from the system, then it's for Riverdale's benefit and everybody's benefit, because there is more capacity available for everybody to use."

The I&I readings have been low over the past few years, which allowed the borough to purchase 91,000 gallons of sewer space for \$2,093,000 from Kinnelon and Bloomingdale.

The space could allow up to 360 residential properties to connect to the sewage system. The borough recently polled 169 homes on several streets near Newark Pompton and Hamburg turnpikes.

Of the respondents, the majority of residents on Newbury Place and Parkway voted in favor of installing sewers in their neighborhoods.

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