

Water the town hall topic for Bedford residents

Water, sewer and stormwater issues were the scheduled topics at Bedford Township's latest town hall, held just before the regular board meeting Tuesday.

Tim Csurgo, deputy county drain commissioner, was the guest. Nearly 20 people attended.

The discussion included explaining to residents a proposal to create a new regional water system connected to Toledo's water plant. This plan, announced Friday by the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, would include rewriting existing contracts to the South County Water System and several Ohio communities.

Assuming the regional water system plan is a go, it will move forward quickly. Supervisor Paul Pirrone said that if something is not in place by June, the City of Sylvania, Ohio, is expected to proceed with an alternate plan.

Mr. Csurgo said the TMACOG agreement is "the best option currently."

Recent rate increases under the Toledo contract are getting customers' attention. This year's rate hike was 15 percent

and there were complaints at the meeting of \$700 or \$800 quarterly water bills in the aftermath of a dry summer.

Much of the work session focused on stormwater issues in light of the heavy rains in the area. Some residents attending live in older neighborhoods. One man said he has complained about poor drainage by his home.

Residents say it is confusing as to who is responsible for drainage problems, and how to get them fixed. The reason, Mr. Csurgo said, is the ditches and drains are not all under the same jurisdiction.

In general, a neighborhood built after 1978 falls under the drain commission's responsibility, while the older neighborhoods fall under the Monroe County Road Commission's.

But since the road commission barely has enough money to keep the roads in repair, its focus on drains is to keep water off the roads, he said. Whether a ditch effectively keeps water off nearby private property is a different matter.

"Some of the old subdivisions need a lot of work," Mr. Csurgo said.