

**Madison Water Utility - Felland Road Project - Zac and Lauren Chilson**

1 message

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To: allalders@cityofmadison.com

Madison Water Utility - Felland Road Project

I would first like to state that my wife and I, along with many other property owners on Felland Road are extremely upset that we were blindsided by this water main project and its incurred costs. Ours being \$16,985.85. We weren't allowed to vote or even have a say in this project. When we first were notified of the water main construction back on June 15th from Madison Water Utility, it was stated that the project costs will be assessed to benefitting properties. My question is why weren't we mailed an assessment estimate before construction had started? It seems that the project costs were already determined to be by acreage and not frontage. Was this the city's plan to "pull the wool over our eyes" and fast track the project by forcing us into this ridiculous assessment? It wasn't until August 3rd that we received our water main assessment estimate, at that point the project had been well underway. We were SHOCKED to see this amount during a time like this. This estimate could have and should have been given to us when the project was "awarded" to Capital Underground. The total project cost was already determined before June 15th. I don't believe it is fair for us property owners on Felland Road to have to absorb the cost of this water main project for future planned neighborhoods. The project's main goal, outside of fire protection/water service, was to run a water main connecting the developments on Lien Road to the future neighborhood development (804 Felland Road/754 Felland Road). This cost should be on the City of Madison and future land developers. We should also have been given a cost breakdown for construction costs ie (City of Madison's proportions and Felland Road property owner proportion) we were never given this information.

It was also stated, according to Kelly Miess, that the water service and fire protection would be a "benefit" and "increasing property values providing significant financial benefit to existing land owners". The only people "significantly benefiting financially" from this project is the City of Madison. As far as I'm concerned a city water source being a "benefit" or "increasing property values" is subjective to the land owner. We have already paid for the benefits of having a well on our land and/or properties when we purchased. I along with many other people prefer well water and find it much safer than a loosely monitored city water source. I could list several instances locally of contaminated city water but I'm sure you are already aware of them. I prefer to monitor and test my water source for the safety of my family, not rely on an entity. As for fire protection, the amount of fire hydrants on Felland Road is absolutely absurd. A hydrant every other property? Let me guess a ridiculous City ordinance. We all know that this is for the future planned neighborhood in which you continually allow for a high density of housing. More properties, more taxes and inflated water bills that's the name of the game.

I ask that you take a look at this project and its costs, and reassess what the City has to pay and what we have to pay. The costs we have to pay or defer, with a subject to a "Construction Cost Index" is unfair and we were blindsided with these costs. It is a shame that the City of Madison would push this project through during a time like this especially with the amount of financial burden that this puts on retiring families as well as young families such as ourselves.

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