

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

10-0142R

RESOLUTION MODIFYING GRINDER PUMP MAINTENANCE FEE IN THE  
FOND DU LAC SANITARY SEWER AREA, EFFECTIVE AFTER MARCH  
31, 2010.

BY COUNCILOR FOSLE:

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 43-70(b) of the Duluth City Code, the Duluth City Council hereby amends the Fond du Lac grinder pump fee to the amount of \$12 per month, which fee shall be effective for wastewater user fee billings sent out after March 31, 2010.

Approved as to form:

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Attorney

CCREQ/ATTY    REA: jkw    3/12/2010

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution amends the Fond du Lac grinder pump maintenance fee to a fee of \$12 per month. The fee is intended to cover the city's costs of maintaining and operating sanitary sewer grinder pumps serving homes and businesses in the Fond du Lac area which make it possible for those properties to be served by the city's sanitary sewer system.

Most property in the city is served by "gravity" sewers which don't need grinder pumps to dispose of wastewater originating on the property. In those few cases where gravity will not suffice to carry wastewater away from the property, the owners are normally required to purchase, install and maintain their own grinder pumps or install and maintain a septic system.

Because of the lower elevation of the property in Fond du Lac and the its proximity to the St. Louis River, it was determined to be important to get the effluent from this area into the sewer system and so a program was developed to make this possible. This program included the requirement that virtually all the properties in the area have installed and maintain grinder pumps to get the effluent into the public sewer system where force mains would be used to convey it to the WLSSD facilities.

This solution imposed an unusual burden on the individual properties to install and maintain their own grinder pumps. In order to achieve area-wide compliance the city determined to fund the installations itself and to allow the property owners to pay for the city's costs of maintaining the system through a "grinder pump fee".

Initial estimates indicated that the average cost to the city to maintain, operate and replace the pumps would be about \$15 per month and so this was the rate originally established in 2002. Further experience puts the cost at an amount closer to \$12 per month. This resolution would adjust the rate to reflect the city's actual costs.