

**“What’s the Village Water System Consist of?”**  
**(Some Basic Information about the Village’s Water System)**

The Village operates a Type I public water supply. In Michigan, a type I system provides year-round service to not less than 25 residents (or not less than 15 living units). As a result, it is subject to Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) statutory and regulatory management requirements. These requirements include water quality standards and regular monitoring of system performance.

The Village water system consists of a Water Treatment Plant (WTP), three wells/pumping stations, an elevated storage tower, about 9.5 miles of water distribution (piping) system, and auxiliary equipment such as generators. Some of the system is newer and in very good shape while other parts of the system, like the water pipes in the distribution system, old and nearing the end of their useful life.

Water (and sanitary sewer) utilities are governed by the Village of Armada, Code or Ordinances under Title II- Utilities and Services, Chapters 21 and 23. A copy is at the Village Office and can also be found on-line on the Internet.

The Village Water System (as is the Sanitary Sewer System) is funded by the residential and business customers that use it. Operating, maintenance, and capital improvement funds come from the quarterly Water/Sewer bills. This customer funding can occasionally be subsidized by grants (federal, state, or related organizations). Grants can make the money we have go further. We’ve tried over the past few years but we’ve not been successful in getting any grants awarded.

Only rarely do we ever get free funds dedicated for specific activities by the federal and state governments. We are receiving \$~180,000 in

COVID Relief Recovery Funds (American Rescue Plan Act - ARPA funds) from the Federal Government. These funds will help us defray the cost of needed system upgrades, maintenance, and repair.

We predominantly fund major water system upgrade and maintenance activities through long-term repayable loans in the form of bonds. These have associated interest charges and are paid back over a number of years. The Village Water Treatment Plant, built in 2005, is currently being paid off over 20 years. The final loan payment is in 2024.

The Village Water Department is managed by a Village Trustee with the additional assigned duty of being the Water Commissioner. The Water Commissioner position usually requires 5-15 hours of work a week however there is no additional payment received for doing the work of the Commissioner. The Trustee – Water Commissioner only gets paid the standard Trustee compensation when he attends a Village Council Meeting.

Trustee Ross Boelke is the Water Commissioner. He can be contacted through the Village Office at [watercommissioner@villageofarmada.org](mailto:watercommissioner@villageofarmada.org) or at **586-784-9151**. You can also make your specific water system concerns known by attending Village Council meetings during the year.

**For Further Information, Contact: Ross Boelke, Water Commissioner, 586-784-9151**