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## City to tackle storm-water runoff itself

### Mayor expects less expense

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Pewee Valley has decided to address federal mandates for storm-water runoff on its own, which Mayor Bob Rogers said could mean city residents will pay less than homeowners in other parts of the county.

The Pewee Valley City Council voted unanimously Nov. 3 to pay Stantec Consulting Services in Louisville to devise a plan to meet the mandates, which stem from the Clean Water Act.

"We felt we could probably do it a lot more economically," Rogers said. "We could tailor it closer to what the needs of Pewee Valley are. There's not that much new construction that goes on in the city compared to the county, and ... we don't have the commercial properties they have in other sections of the county."

In August, Oldham Fiscal Court formed a Storm Water Management District whose board will be able to collect a utility fee that will be used to address federal regulations for storm-water runoff.

Several rates have already been proposed, including \$60 a year and \$42.24, on average, each year for the first five years. The district's board will choose the rate, with final approval from Fiscal Court.

Chairman Kevin Eldridge said last week that they plan to discuss a rate with Fiscal Court in December and work on getting the bills out early next year.

The money would be used for staff, maintenance and other expenses needed to comply with new county ordinances required by the federal government to address storm-water runoff, including illegal discharges and preventing or reducing polluted runoff.

The nearly 17,000 owners of single-family homes and duplexes and about 1,000 owners of businesses and multi-family homes in Oldham County would pay the fee.

But homeowners in the city of La Grange would not pay because the city is not required to participate, and now owners of the 540 homes in Pewee Valley, along with the businesses there, will pay whatever rate Pewee Valley decides to charge.

Rogers said the council budgeted \$50,000 for the first year of work involving the storm-water regulations, but "I don't think we're going to use all of that. After the first year, I think the price is going to go way down."

He said he's not sure what the rate will be for Pewee Valley homeowners, but he does think it will be

less than what other residents in the county will pay. He added that he's not sure when the fees would start.

Eldridge said he's glad that Pewee Valley made a decision.

"We need to go ahead and formalize (a plan) for the county," he said, adding that they were waiting to see what Pewee Valley would decide.

Oldham County recently received a "notice of violation" that lists issues it must address to meet the federal mandate, he said.

"We've got to get going," Eldridge said.

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