monitoring of the PFAS contamination. In total, the cost of PFAS sampling from 2022 – 2025 is $226,000. Unfortunately, PFAS sampling is very expensive. In general, it cost $400 per sample for PFAS analysis. This is due to the analytical methods and the very low level (part per trillion) detection limits required for PFAS analysis. For a home with an RO unit, it costs nearly $1,000 per home to sample as it is $400 for the well sample, $400 for the post RO sample to assure it is functioning properly, and then time for consulting staff to collect and transport the sample. In addition, maintaining the RO units costs $500 per home annually, and potentially more if any repair and or replacement is required. In addition, there are separate costs associated with the sampling of the sodium and chloride included in our contamination monitoring.

Due to the cost of the PFAS sampling, we unfortunately are not able to continue to absorb the costs in the Operation and Maintenance Budget. Therefore, the fee is necessary to create a cost and revenue center just for the environmental contamination to separate from the Operation and Maintenance costs for the sewer system.

What is Genoa Township doing to minimize these costs?

We are doing all we can to minimize cost of monitoring, while making sure that we are protecting the affected residents. Last year, and again this year, we have applied for an emerging contaminant grant to partially fund the sampling and perform hydraulic groundwater modeling to determine if an alternate source of drinking water is available. In addition, after sampling this year and based on the results, we are hopeful to be able to petition the state for reduced frequency as sampling data trends do not demonstrate any change or trend over what has been observed the last couple of years.

What is the long-term plan for the contamination?

Ultimately, we must find an alternative source of drinking water for the affected residents, which will end the annual residential sampling requirement. We may still have to perform monitor well sampling, but hopefully that will be at a much lower frequency and also a much smaller number of samples. It should be noted that Genoa Township purchased the 70 acres from the State of Michigan to prevent development of the property and thus decreased sampling and/or remediation cost in the future.

Conclusion

We are hopeful to obtain a grant to fund the evaluation of alternatives for a permanent drinking water source to reduce our annual costs. However, it is necessary to gather more data to determine trends and the best course of action that provides the best health protection for affected residents while also balancing the most prudent fiscal alternative. Having a separate revenue and cost center for environmental contamination monitoring provides the best means to manage the finances for this project.