

Board of Sewer Commissioners

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Commissioners

Joseph A. Bettencourt
Joseph M. Bickel

Superintendent

Robert A. Carey

February 28, 2019

Dear Sewer User,

This letter is to inform you of the upcoming rate adjustment for sewer use effective January 1, 2019. To be billed July 2019.

After recently completing the budget for the operation and maintenance of the Sewer Department, the Board of Sewer Commissioners realized the need for an increase in sewer user rates. Some explanation is explained below for this need. These tasks include, among others:

1. Efforts to reduce the infiltration and inflow into our sewer lines. As our lines and manholes get older, they tend to deteriorate and become leaky. Collecting, pumping and treating clean groundwater is an unnecessary expense. There is an ongoing project to locate and correct these problems.
2. Our sewer system currently has 34, soon to have 35 pumping stations which need to be inspected daily. We now have a five man crew to support the daily checks and maintenance to our sewer system amongst other daily tasks associated with the sewer department.
3. We have more pumping stations most of them if not over 20 years in age certainly nearing 20 years. We have increased maintenance and repair costs as our system expands and ages.
4. The Sewer Commission has also created a Bond Redemption account which is needed to replenish previously allocated betterment funds that were introduced into the sewer department retained earnings being used to operate the sewer department. This adjustment is needed so that the department can be run solely on user fees.

Our plan going forward is to properly maintain the capital investment that our taxpayers have made for our sewer system. Our goal is to have funds for future capital expenses, such as replacement for aging pumps, vehicles and equipment.

The residential rate will increase from \$ 300 per year to \$ 420 per year billed bi-annually at \$ 210 per six months. The result is an increase of \$10 per month. The Commercial rate will increase from \$ 5.00 per thousand gallons to \$ 7.80 per thousand gallons, also billed bi-annually.

Very truly yours,

Joseph A. Bettencourt
Chairman