

The Village of Bergen proposed sewer rate restructure

The Village has worked diligently in curtailing costs since 2007, the last time there was a rate restructure. However, with aging infrastructure, increased costs and a \$35,000 deficit in the Village sewer budget, the Village is left with no option other than to review sewer rates so we can continue to maintain operation of our sewage facility and provide customer services.

What do you get by paying your sewer bill?

The Village of Bergen operates and maintains a Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) located at 6593 North Lake Avenue. The Village pays for all costs for operation and maintenance of the wastewater collection system, three pump stations, the main sewer lines and repayment of any indebtedness associated with the operation of these facilities. The Village of Bergen also maintains all septic tanks located in the system, including pumping, preventative maintenance, repair, replacement and incurs any expenses associated with them.

Why now?

The Village has been able to cover increased costs over the last decade with various cost cutting solutions and funding from the general budget. With the possible reduction in State Aid and Assistance to Municipalities (AIM) funding and potential future loss of our portion of the Genesee County sales tax, the Village is left with no other option than to look at a rate structure change.

In the past 12 years the Village has done the following to cut costs:

- Negotiated a three year contract with A.D.Call & Sons for tank pumping which is \$100 less per tank than an individual homeowner would pay.
- Decreased staff. We run with one operator and a back-up who has other Village responsibilities.
- Added a composting process to reduce high sludge processing costs which will have future savings.
- Reduced equipment. The WWTP will no longer have a dedicated vehicle.
- Updated and streamlined administrative expenses.

Why do we need a rate restructure?

- Additional costs associated with mandatory DEC testing requirements
- NYS law changes require more treatment. Additional chemicals must be purchased to meet these changes.
- In 2007, a 1000 gallon tank pumping cost \$80 per tank, today pumping is \$125
- Recent upgrade to our 25 year old pump station located on Rochester Street
- Additional costs for aging infrastructure.
- Irresponsible homeowners/tenants, extra pumping and house calls.
- Unforeseen circumstances and issues with an aging system.

How often is sewer billed?

Quarterly in February, May, August and November.

What is the debt service charge?

This portion of your sewer bill pays for any indebtedness associated with the WWTP. The current charge is **\$45.00 per unit**. This charge will remain the same.

How is your usage determined?

Monroe County Water Authority provides a report to the Village with annual water usage for every property. This amount is used to determine your usage rate and is updated annually, in October, to reflect the prior year’s usage.

How are units determined?

Each residential or commercial structure in the Village shall constitute one unit. Additionally, each living unit in excess of one shall constitute an additional one-half unit.

Current billing structure:

<u>Residential</u>	<u>Usage cost per unit</u>	<u>Total bill for 1 unit</u>
Low - 0 - 15,000 gallons	\$75.00	\$120.00
Average - 15,001 - 40,000 gallons	\$90.00	\$135.00
High - Over 40,001 gallons	\$100.00	\$145.00
Fixed - Outside Village (no MCWA)	\$75.00	\$131.25

Proposed billing structure:

<u>Residential</u>	<u>Usage cost per unit</u>	<u>Total bill for 1 unit</u>
Class A - 0 - 15,000 gallons	\$95.00	\$140.00
Class B - 15,001 - 40,000 gallons	\$110.00	\$155.00
Class C - 40,001 - 60,000 gallons	\$120.00	\$165.00
Class D - Over 60,001 gallons	\$130.00	\$175.00
Class F - Fixed outside village	\$100.00	\$156.25

The commercial and industrial rate structure will remain the same.

Informational Meeting

The Village Board will have an informational meeting on March 13th, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Village Office.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Tours open to all residents

March 13th at 2:00 pm
March 13th at 7:30 pm