



GRAFTON
QUALITY LIFE. NATURALLY.

**VILLAGE OF GRAFTON
NOTICE OF SEWER RATE INCREASE
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 20, 2018**

The rate for sewer services in the Village of Grafton has increased as of December 20, 2018. There are no rate increases to water service at this time. The rate increase is necessary to reduce the existing deficiency in the present rates. Listed below is the current sewer rate structure along with the new rates for referencing. These rates will be reflected in the 1st quarter billing that will be mailed out in March.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Current Rates</u>	<u>New Rates</u>
Sewer Flat Charge 5/8"meter	\$37.70	\$49.10 rate increased by \$11.40
Sewer Usage per 1,000 gallons	\$6.10	\$6.70 usage increase by \$0.60

The average large household will use approximately 18,000 gallons in a quarter. This resident would currently be billed \$147.50 for sewer service. The new rates would increase their quarterly sewer bill to \$169.70. This is an increase of \$22.20 for the quarter.

A detailed listing of all the Utility rates that were approved by the Board of Public Works and the Village Board, can be found on the Village of Grafton website, www.qualitylifegrafton.com. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Village of Grafton Water & Wastewater Utility at 262-375-5330.

Payment Information:

Utility bills for water & sewer service are sent out quarterly. Residential customers are billed the last day of March, June, September, and December. Utility bills become due on the 20th day of the month following the date of billing. A late payment charge of 3% but not less than \$0.50 is added to bills not paid by the due date. Payments can be mailed to the address listed on the bill, or they can be dropped off at the following pay stations prior to the due date:

Grafton Village Hall
Port Washington State Bank - Grafton
Cornerstone Community Bank – Grafton

Residents who choose to pay online thru their bank website or Village Hall website, please make sure that you have your account number listed and the mailing address as 860 Badger Circle in Grafton. This will expedite processing of the payment.

Please see the back side of this notice for more information. Thank you.

Sewer Rate Increase Informational Notice

Customer billings for sanitary sewer pays for the infrastructure, operations, and maintenance needs for the Village's sanitary sewer system including the wastewater treatment plant as well as 55 miles of sewer pipe, 1,010 manholes, and 11 lift stations. This system as a whole is essential in providing a reliable sewage utility to all Village customers.

The Village of Grafton's wastewater treatment plant was originally built in 1959. The last major expansion to the facility was done in 1983. Even though there have been numerous equipment upgrades over the years, much of the facility is 35 years old or older. Typically, the design life of this type of infrastructure is 20 years. The need to fully replace some of the outdated and worn out equipment at the plant is critical to providing sewer service to all customers. Without these updates there could be catastrophic failures that are not quick, easy, or inexpensive to fix.

The largest project planned for the wastewater treatment plant is a complete replacement of the undersized, antiquated and inefficient headworks facility. The planned headworks project includes a new headworks building with a new perforated screen, wash press, vortex grit removal, grit washer, and influent pumps. These are the first processes sewage encounters at the plant before it is conveyed to the activated sludge treatment process. The processes in the headworks facility removes large debris, sand and grit that can jamb, plug, or prematurely wear out down-stream pumping equipment in the rest of the plant. The material removed in the headworks facility is disposed of in a landfill as solid waste.

Each year the Utility also plans for replacements and repairs to aging and damaged portions of the sewage collection system throughout the Village. A majority of this sewer main and manhole replacement work is done in conjunction with annual street replacement projects. The Utility works diligently to perform a complete evaluation of the sewer mains, and only replaces those that have significant deterioration.

Over the last few decades there has been significant incorporation of water-saving plumbing fixtures for conservation purposes. For this reason total water usage continually decreases in the Village of Grafton by approximately 4% each year despite its significant growth. Growth in the Village equates to growth of the water and sewer system. Growth in the water and sewer system requires an increase in infrastructure, equipment, supplies, and labor, which increases the Utility's expenses. Unfortunately, a strain is placed on our goal of keeping rates low as the volume of water used decreases and the Village continues to grow.

The 16.9% incremental rate increase for 2018 is part of a multi-year revenue stabilizing plan that will help provide financial stability for the most important planned infrastructure projects, and will also help provide adequate reserves for a financially healthy utility. Many of these projects are required to meet DNR regulations, and to keep the infrastructure updated and in good working order.

The average homeowner who uses approximately 18,000 gallons of water would see an increase of \$22.20 on their quarterly sewer bill. Our sewer rates are comparable to neighboring communities.