



GRAFTON
QUALITY LIFE. NATURALLY.

FAQ's about the 2018 Sewer Rate Increase

- Why are my rates increasing? – As the Village of Grafton grows, the increase in equipment, supplies, labor and utility expenses also grow. The Village of Grafton Wastewater Utility is increasing sewer rates to keep up with the increase of current expenses along with required upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant. Much of the plant infrastructure has not been updated since the early 1980's.
- How much is the 2018 sewer rate increase? – This will be a 16.9% overall sewer increase.
- When will the increase go into effect? – The new rates will start on September 20th, 2018.
- How much are the future increases projected to be? – The recommended sewer rate increase for 2019 is 15.3% and 15.0% in 2020.
- Didn't sewer rates increase in 2016 and 2017? Why are they increasing again so soon? – Yes, sewer rates did increase in 2016 by 5%. This was an internally designed "simplified" increase designed to help shore up the Wastewater financing needs until a full rate study could be incorporated. In 2017, a full rate study was completed, increasing sewer rates by 20%. This increase was based on a detailed analysis by financial consultants as part of a 4-year rate increase plan.
- How much will my bill increase? – That depends on the size of the meter in your home, and how much water is used. The average homeowner who uses 18,000 gallons of water will see their quarterly SEWER bill increase from \$147.50 to \$169.70. Please see the chart at the end of this sheet for more information.
- When will sewer rates increase again? – The rate study that was performed by the consultant recommends that rates continue to incrementally increase every year with the last increase projected to take place in 2020. The need for additional funding will be annually reviewed, and only increased if necessary. Any future increases are subject to the approval of the Board of Public Works and the Village Board.
- Why not have one big sewer rate increase instead of phasing the increase in over four years? – This approach will minimize the impact to rate payers, and will not increase unnecessarily until future year need is proven.

- Will the water rates increase with the sewer rates too? – The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin approved a water rate increase that went into effect on March 20, 2018. At this time it is unknown when the Utility, along with the PSC, will discuss future WATER rate increases.
- How will the increased sewer rates compare to other communities in Ozaukee County? – Out of eight Ozaukee County communities, Grafton will rise from having the third lowest sewer rate, up three places.
- Does the Public Service Commission also approve sewer rate increases? No. The Public Service Commission does not regulate sewer rates. The Village Board approves rates for the sewer customers in the Village of Grafton.
- Who is the financial consultant that performed the rate study? – The consultant who performed this study is Trilogy Consulting out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Trilogy is an experienced financial consulting firm specializing in water and sewer rate studies and municipal financing.
- Who can I contact if I have questions that are not answered on this sheet? – Please contact the Village of Grafton Water and Wastewater Utility at (262) 375-5330 with any additional questions.

| Service | Current Rates | New Rates | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Water Flat Charge 5/8" meter | \$20.86 | \$20.86 | no change in rate |
| Sewer Flat Charge | \$37.70 | \$49.10 | rate increased by \$11.40 |
| Deduct Meter Charge | \$9.90 | \$9.90 | no change in rate |
| Public Fire Protection | \$10.10 | \$10.10 | no change in rate |
| Water Usage per 1,000 gallons | \$2.68 | \$2.68 | no change in rate |
| Sewer Usage per 1,000 gallons | \$6.10 | \$6.70 | usage increase by \$0.60 |

Bill Example

| Sewer Customer Classification | Meter Size | Gallons | Existing Quarterly Rate | Revised Quarterly Rate |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Small Residential | 5/8" | 12,000 | \$ 110.90 | \$ 129.50 |
| Average Residential | 5/8" | 18,000 | \$ 147.50 | \$ 169.70 |
| Commercial | 1" | 150,000 | \$ 979.20 | \$ 1,089.30 |
| Public Authority | 1 1/2" | 225,000 | \$ 1,483.00 | \$ 1,650.90 |
| Industrial | 2" | 450,000 | \$ 2,909.40 | \$ 3,228.90 |