

Understanding your Water Bill



Water and Sewer Fund

As an enterprise fund, the Village's Water and Sewer Fund is created to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises. The intent is that costs of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges. All activity necessary to provide such services are accounted for in this fund, including administration, operations, maintenance, billing and collection.

Village tax dollars are not used to pay any of the costs associated with these water and sewer services.

The Board of Trustees approved and adopted a 10-year Water Rate Study. The purpose of the study was to evaluate both the operational and capital costs being charged to the Water and Sewer Fund over the next 10 years. During the execution of the Transmission Main Construction Contract (when the Village moved from receiving water from Chicago to Evanston), the Village froze water rates until the end of Fiscal Year 2022 (April 30, 2022) to allow for the review of the water and sewer rates to prevent a shortfall in the Water and Sewer Fund. Due to the capital costs in the Water and Sewer Fund, such as the water main replacement program and the mandated lead service line replacement, the Village approved and adopted a 10-year Water Rate Study. As a result, the Village implemented water rate increases over the first three years to ensure the Water and Sewer Fund is sustainable in the future.

Five Components of a Water Bill

A typical water bill has five components

Water Usage



The basic water user charge is calculated quarterly based on consumption. Each unit is 1,000 gallons of metered water consumption. The current base rate is \$6.34 per unit. Prior to January 1, 2024, this rate was \$6.17 per unit. This represents a 2.8% increase in basic water use charges.

Capital Improvements



Each bill includes a monthly charge of \$3.42 which is allocated to fund large Capital projects, such as, water main replacements. Water bills for residential properties are issued quarterly and reflect a charge of \$10.26 for the three-month period. Water bills for commercial properties are issued monthly, therefore they reflect the monthly charge of \$3.42. Prior to January 1, 2024, this rate was \$3.33 per month.

Water Meter Fund



Residential properties are charged a water meter fee of \$4.89 quarterly. Commercial properties are charged a water meter fund fee of \$9.78 monthly. These fees are assessed for the use of the Village's water meters. Prior to January 1, 2024, the residential rate associated with this fee was \$4.76 and the commercial rate was \$9.51.

Debt Service Fund



The Debt Service Charge is calculated quarterly at \$3.70 per unit. This charge is allocated to pay debts incurred to improve the water delivery system for projects such as new water main replacements. Prior to January 1, 2024, this rate was \$3.60 per unit.

Sewer Use



The Sewer user fee is \$1.09 per unit. Funds that are generated from the sewer user charge are utilized for maintenance of the Village's combined sewer system as well as any improvements or repairs that are needed. Prior to January 1, 2024, this rate was \$1.06 per unit.

Current rates are effective January 1, 2024.

For additional information, please contact the Lincolnwood Finance Department at (847) 673-1540 or visit lincolnwoodil.org.

