

Information About Your New Sewer & Garbage Fees

On March 21, 2016, the Village of Frankfort approved an ordinance authorizing the use of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) funding to finance the implementation of the Village's 20-year Facility Plan (adopted in the Fall of 2015). The plan includes removing a majority of the structures at the north and west wastewater treatment facilities and converting them into pumping stations, and consolidating and expanding the wastewater treatment at the regional plant. These changes provide the necessary updates to adhere to compliance standards issued by the Illinois and United States Environmental Protection Agencies, to satisfy future growth needs, and to eliminate aging facilities. The multi-year project is estimated to cost \$61 million.

In addition to addressing the Utility improvements, the Village Board has recognized the need to increase the amount of funding needed to maintain our current roadways. From 1997 to 2007, almost 352,000 lane feet of streets were added to the Village in 29 new subdivisions. These roads have an average life span of approximately 15 years and are in need of repairs and maintenance. Previously, each year the Village Board budgeted \$500,000 for road work within our community. Due to significant growth in the late 1990's and early 2000's, that amount will no longer cover the rising costs for street maintenance. The Village has estimated that it will cost \$1.5M to \$2M to resurface its roads each year.

To fund the Facility (sewer) Plan improvements, the Village has been approved for low interest loans through the IEPA. On June 19, 2017 the Village approved a sewer rate increase of \$1.59 per 1,000 gallons effective September 1, 2017 and an additional increase of \$1.59 per 1,000 gallons effective September 1, 2018 (the current sewer rate is \$4.98 per 1,000 gallons) to meet loan obligations. The rate increases to date, including these mentioned, will fund the repayment of six of the seven project phases. The new rates are reflected in the following table:

IMPACT OF INCREASES ON MONTHLY UTILITY BILL				
CONSUMPTION IN GALLONS	2,000	5,000	10,000	15,000
CURRENT RATE = \$8.99 (SEWER \$4.98 & WATER \$4.01)	\$ 17.98	\$ 44.95	\$ 89.90	\$ 134.85
RATE INCREASES				
ORD. NO. 3093 \$1.59 SEWER RATE INCREASE EFF. 9/1/2017	\$ 21.16	\$ 52.90	\$ 105.80	\$ 158.70
ORD. NO. 3011 2% AND CPI INCREASES EFF. 5/1/2018	\$ 22.02	\$ 55.05	\$ 110.10	\$ 165.15
ORD. NO. 3093 \$1.59 SEWER RATE INCREASE EFF. 9/1/2018	\$ 25.20	\$ 63.00	\$ 126.00	\$ 189.00

** Note - Above schedule does not include garbage and recycling fees that are charged to Village residents.*

“The Village of Frankfort recognizes the impact the new sewer rates have on our residents and utility customers. The improvements required to our regional plant will ultimately enhance efficiency, lower operating costs and meet regulatory compliance. This major construction project will have a positive effect on our community as we plan for the next 20 years”, commented Frankfort’s Mayor Jim Holland.

To meet the funding needs for road improvements and other capital items, the Frankfort Finance Committee discussed various expense controls and funding sources. In all nearby communities, the expense for garbage collection is paid directly by the residents. Frankfort pays \$1.3 million annually for recycling and garbage collection for our residents through existing revenues sources. The Finance Committee determined that the Village can no longer fund garbage collection services while still meeting our capital improvement obligations. Therefore, the Finance Committee forwarded a recommendation to the Village Board to approve passing the cost of garbage collection directly to residents. It was determined that it would be cheaper to add the cost to the current utility bill than to require each resident to contract through a provider. With Village board approval, a monthly garbage fee of \$13.62 and a monthly \$.03 increase in the recycling fee will be passed on to Village residents in the water and sewer bill.

“While the Village is currently financially sound, our road maintenance expenses have increased substantially. We must look to the future and plan for these added expenditures”, commented Mayor Holland.

PLEASE NOTE:

The new rates, effective September 1, 2017, will be reflected on your October 15, 2017 water bill.

If you have any questions, please contact us!



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