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Sewer Rate Change / Increase

On January 2, 2019, the Board of Commissioners approved a rate increase by Resolution No. 2019-02. As noted in the resolution, the consumption charge of \$3.99/1000 gallons will remain; however, an additional base rate of \$25.00 a quarter will be implemented. This base charge will be billed each quarter regardless of usage. There will no longer be a \$62.50 per quarter minimum charge.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When will these changes take effect?

A. These changes / increases will be effective April 1, 2019, beginning with the second billing quarter.

Q. What does my sewer bill pay for?

A. Your South Whitehall Township (SWT) sewer bill covers the following categories, costs, and services:

- The annual operation and maintenance of the sewer system, disposition to a treatment plant and sewer division expenses.
- The repair and replacement of pipes, pump stations, facilities and equipment to improve the sewer system safety, efficiency and reliability.

Q. Why do the rates need to be raised?

A. The 2019 rate increase is due to the necessary capital projects being done to maintain and improve the SWT sewer system. Among the many sewer capital projects are those which relate to the Environmental Protection Agency required improvements. The existing rates do not provide enough revenue to meet the expenses necessary to operate the sewer system. The need to balance the revenues with the disposal of sewage costs, operations, maintenance, and capital improvement expenditures is a necessity.

Q. How is my sewer bill calculated?

A. Each bill will have two (2) components:

1. **Sewer Base Charge (Fixed):** This charge covers the costs of keeping the system maintained. Additionally, this charge includes a capital component. The capital component is to be used for repairs and improvements to the sewer system.
2. **Sewer Usage Fee (Variable):** This charge is based on the amount of water used and is calculated by multiplying the number of gallons of water used by the sewage unit rate. This charge is geared primarily towards recovering the costs associated with sewer maintenance, treatment, and disposal costs.

If you still have questions about how your bill might be impacted, call or email SWT using the contact information in the header of this letter.