

Frequently Asked Questions for Sewer Rent

Q: What is a Sewer Rent?

A: Sewer Rent is a fee that more fairly pays for needed repairs and replacement of the Village's sewer system than the traditional property tax system.

Q: Don't I already pay a Port Chester Sewer Tax?

A: The Port Chester Sewer Tax is actually a Westchester County tax to pay for the County owned sewage treatment plant that serves our community. It does not cover the costs of maintenance and repair of village owned sewer lines.

Q: Why is Sewer Rent better than what we did before?

A: Rather than the flat rate that property owners now pay for sewer service, sewer Rent will scale the cost relative to the use of the sewer. Those who use the sewer more will now pay more for the service. Those who use it less will now pay less for the service. This reflects the best and fairest way to raise money for sewer repair.

Example:

Before: Under the current system, if your house is valued the same as a laundromat, you would pay about the same in property taxes. If you pay about the same in property taxes, you are paying about the same towards sewer maintenance. But a laundromat puts many times more gallons of waste into the sewer than a home, so this is unfair.

Now: Under Sewer Rent, the Laundromat will pay for each gallon of water they dump in the sewer, and that large volume will cost the laundromat more than the small amount of water that a home dumps in the sewer.

Q: What does this mean to Tax Exempt Properties?

A: This system will allow the village to obtain funds from tax exempt properties to maintain the sewers. Before, tax exempt properties paid nothing towards sewers. This will keep the burden of sewer expenses lower for Property Tax paying citizens.

Q: Did the Village reach out to the community before enacting this program?

A: The Program was enacted a year ago after multiple public meetings. The required state approvals and contracts to complete implementation of the project were made this year. Dozens of public, advertised meetings were held to discuss the program. Direct mailings went out to the public last March, this March, and this April. Local newspapers, community access TV, and the village website have also promoted the program.

Q: How much is this going to cost ME? (How can I calculate my costs?)

A: The average household cost for Sewer Rent this year should be approximately \$156, based on the amount of water used.

You can calculate your approximate cost by looking at last year's water consumption on your united water bills. For every 1 CCF (CCF is equal to 100 cubic feet of water) of water used, you will pay about \$1.30.

Next year, the rate will be about \$1.34 per CCF.

Remember, you can keep that cost down by conserving water whenever possible.

Q: Where will the money go?

A: The Village is legally bound to spend this revenue only on sewer improvements.

Q: I don't agree with amount of my sewer rent fee, how can I challenge the sewer rent fee?

A: If you would like to contest the amount of water used, call United Water at 888-876-1672. If you would like to contest the sewer rent rate, you may apply to the Board of Trustees for review of the fee by writing a letter to the board explaining your challenge and requesting a hearing.

Q: How long do I have to pay the sewer rent fee and what happens if I'm late?

A: All bills are due within 25 days of issuance. A 1% penalty will be charged for any bill that remains unpaid after 25 days, and will incur another 1% penalty for each succeeding month or any portion of a month in which sewer rent continues to remain unpaid. Unpaid sewer rents, penalties and interest shall be enforced by lien upon the property.