



TOWN OF ESSEX VERMONT

81 MAIN STREET, ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT 05452

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Water/Sewer Customer:

25 April 2016

The Town of Essex Selectboard has adopted the water and sewer rates and fees for the period following the spring 2016 billing (FYE 2017). The rates have increased as noted for the following reasons:

- 1. The need to maintain the sewer and water funds on a firm financial basis by setting aside adequate funds for system depreciation.*
- 2. The need to meet increased water costs from the Champlain Water District of 3.03% and a 3.8% increase in wastewater treatment costs from the Tri-town Wastewater Treatment Facility.*
- 3. The need to start making annual loan repayments to the Village of Essex Junction in connection with the wastewater treatment refurbishment project.*

A complete explanation of the rate changes can be found on the Town of Essex web page, www.essex.org or a copy can be mailed to you upon request.

The municipal water rate and associated water fees adopted by the Selectboard are:

1. The water rate is increased from \$5.06/1,000 gallons to \$5.13/1,000 gallons.
2. The water initiation fee is increased from \$1000 base fee per connection plus \$5.65/gallons per day of capacity to \$1000 base fee per connection plus \$5.73/gallons per day of capacity.
3. The water minimum charge per year remains unchanged at \$165 per year.
4. Water users with meter sizes of 1-inch or greater will be billed four (4) times per year as soon as the system of billing can be put into operation.

The municipal sewer rate and associated sewer fees adopted by the Selectboard are:

1. The sewer rate is increased from \$8.09/1000 gallons to \$8.59/1000 gallons.
2. The water initiation fee is increased from \$1000 base fee per connection plus \$9.75/gallons per day of capacity to \$1000 base fee per connection to \$10.30/gallons per day of capacity.
3. Sewer users with meter sizes of 1-inch or greater will be billed 4 times per year as soon as the system of billing can be put into operation.

The rate change went into effect upon passage for all connection fees and with usage billings in the billing period following the spring 2016 billings.

A single family residence with both municipal sewer and water using an average of 200 gallons per day can anticipate an increase of 4.3% or \$3.47 per month in their municipal sewer and water bill. If you have any questions regarding the new sewer and water rates and fee structure, please contact the Public Works Department at 878-1344.

TOWN MANAGER	PARKS AND RECREATION	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	PUBLIC WORKS	ASSESSOR	FINANCE	TOWN CLERK	LIBRARY	POLICE
878-1341	878-1342	878-1343	878-1344	878-1345	878-1359	879-0413	879-0313	878-8331

The Town of Essex is currently in the process of upgrading the water metering system within the Town. Each service connection to the municipal water system has a metering device to record total water usage at each account. This data is used to calculate the semi-annual water bill and sewer bill for each customer. If a water meter is not registering all flows correctly either due to age or a malfunction, the Department is losing money or the customer is paying for more water than he or she is using.

Why is the Town installing new water meters? The majority of the existing water meters within the Town's system are over 20 years old, and most have to be read by making a physical connection to the reader attached to the outside of your home. The new meters will transmit the water reading directly to a remote receiver and will accurately read and report your water consumption.

What is AMR? Automatic meter reading, or AMR, includes automatic collection of consumption, diagnostics, and status data from a water meter and transferring that data to a central database for billing, troubleshooting, and analyzing.



Some of the benefits of AMR are;

1. Improved customer service, including:
2. Minimizing the need to access your property to read your meter.
3. Controlled meter reading costs.
4. Fewer employee injuries, especially in areas with fenced yards, dogs and landscaping.

What will this cost? There is no additional charge to you for the meter replacement. The cost of the new meter system is included in your water and sewer rates. Any additional cost to replace existing plumbing on the existing water service will be the responsibility of the homeowner.

Is this something I have to do? Yes, this is a mandatory meter replacement/upgrade. The Town of Essex requires that all utility customers participate in this program. Failure to do so may result in being billed at 150% of the average usage of your property. For a single family home that bill could be in excess of \$500.

When will the new meter installations begin, and do I need to make an appointment? Installation of these new meters has been taking place over the past four years. Each resident connected to the Town's water system will be notified by mail or flyer to make an appointment to have his or her meter changed. Appointments are usually scheduled during the hours of 7:30 AM to 2:30 on weekdays. **Please note that you cannot schedule your appointment until you receive written notification to make the appointment.** When you receive written notification, the notice will include the phone number you need to call to schedule your appointment. Please do not call until you receive notice. When you receive the notice, please keep in mind that you will be required to be present during the entire installation.

How long will it take for my meter to be installed? Once inside your home, each meter installation will take approximately 30 - 45 minutes. In some cases it might be determined by the Town that the structural integrity of the service pipe at your foundation wall will prohibit the installation of the new water meter. Should this be the case you will be contacted by the Town of Essex Public Works' Department on what measures will need to be taken in order to install the new water meter.