

Water and Sewer Rate Increases

Village water and sewer rates are going up on January 1, 2019. Currently the water rate is \$10 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum charge of \$50 a quarter. The water rate is a combination of Bolton Point charges for providing the water and Village charges for maintaining our water infrastructure. The Board of Trustees (BOT) approved the Bolton Point rate hike to \$5.16 with a 100% Village surcharge at their November meeting. The new rate will be \$10.32 per 1,000 gallons, an increase of 3.2 %. The minimum bill will be \$51.60 a quarter

As noted in the latest Village Voices, our waste water treatment plant needs major upgrades in the next few years. The projected cost is almost 12 million dollars. The good news is that we won a Water Infrastructure Improvement Act grant from New York State for 25% of these costs. We are still waiting to hear about a Water Quality Improvement Project that would fund 75% of the remaining expenses. In addition, we have probably scored high enough to be eligible for low interest loans for the remainder. The bad news is that still leaves a sizable amount to finance which will necessitate a substantial sewer rate increase for us and the four other municipalities we serve. At the last BOT meeting, we scheduled a public hearing for the December BOT meeting on a new local law that will increase sewer rates by 10% to begin to accumulate the funds we will need. The sewer rate will go from \$2.51 to \$2.76 per 1,000 gallons. The minimum charge will increase from \$12.55 to \$13.80. The other municipalities we serve will pay 1½ times this rate. By comparison, the sewer rate for the City of Ithaca is more than double our new rate.