

## FAQ's about the 2019 Sewer Rate Increase

- Our sewer plant is close to reaching it's maximum capacity and has very little room for growth. It's now facing the effects of aging. As a result, ongoing expenses continually increase for equipment, maintenance, employees, etc.
- The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) is requiring phosphorous removal from the wastewater discharge of the Village's treatment plant. We are required to have everything in place and working by next Spring. The cost to the Village is roughly \$300,000.00 for building the system and an increased cost for the actual removal every year.
- On April 9, 2019, the St. Joseph Board of Trustees approved a 15 year plan for the Village's future. In the past the Village did not have a solid plan for the future costs of operating expenses, plant capital maintenance, sewer capital maintenance or expansion to keep up with any kind of growth. We have spread out the rate increases in such a way that the residents will not have to deal with such a large rate increase all at once as it had been done in the past.
- In 2011, the rate increase was \$11.20 for the minimum flat fee and an additional \$1.60 for the extra units. The rate increase approved by the Village for this year is an increase of \$2.50 for the minimum flat fee and an additional \$1.50 for each additional unit.
- The future rates will be evaluated every year before they are implemented. Over time the structure of the rate increases are set to not have as much of an impact on our minimum users such as the Village's senior citizens. The larger impact will be to the heavy users in the Village. Basically what this means for this year (2019), the average sewer customer will see a monthly rate increase of \$8.50. Next year the average user will see a monthly increase of \$9.50.

We believe in maintaining a high standard of water quality for our community. Investing in our infrastructure today can minimize costs in the future. Beginning on May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Village of St. Joseph will increase sewer rates and move to a monthly billing cycle. You can expect to see these changes reflected on your June bill.

The rate increase will support future wastewater treatment plant upgrades, improving quality of life for all residents and is a vital part of our infrastructure.

We are here to assist you. Please reach out to us with any of your concerns or questions. You can visit us at the Village Municipal Building, 207 E. Lincoln, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or call the Village at 217-469-7371.

Our Village office hours will be changing on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The new hours will be 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Closed between 12:30 – 1:00 for lunch.

Note: Calculations for average use fee assume \$4,488 gallons/month = 6 units

Year	Minimum Flat Fee Per 2 Units	Fee For Each Additional Unit	Average Monthly Bill
2018	\$12.50	\$3.75	\$27.50
2019	\$15.00	\$5.25	\$36.00
2020	\$17.50	\$7.00	\$45.50
2021	\$20.00	\$9.00	\$56.00
2022	\$20.40	\$10.75	\$63.40
Without metered water: Flat charge of \$54.00/month up to \$75.00			

CGL = 100 Gallons

Billed usage by Illinois American Water 44.88 CGL (44.88 x 100 = 4,488 gallons)

4,488/748 Gallons = 6 Units

DCF = 10 Cubic Feet (44.88 x .1336 = 6 Units)