

NEWSLETTER

**BLOOMSBURG MUNICIPAL
AUTHORITY**

1000 Market Street, Suite 9
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

WINTER 2021

REVISED SEWER RATE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021

The Bloomsburg Municipal Authority has approved an increase in sewer rates which will be effective with the first billing cycle beginning after January 1, 2021. Customers will see this increase reflected in the sewer bills that are received in March, 2021 which are for the water meter read dates of January through February, 2021. This latest increase was

necessary due to the rising cost of sewage treatment which is driven by mandates from the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

RATE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021

GALLONS OF WATER PER MONTH:	
0 to 2,000 (minimum)	\$30.00
2,001 to 10,000 (per/1000)	\$10.50
Over 10,001 (per/1000)	\$7.95

COVID-19 RELATED OFFICE CLOSING PROCEDURES

The Municipal Authority administrative office, located at 1000 Market Street, Suite 9 in Bloomsburg is committed to providing uninterrupted customer service during the challenging times we are all facing during the current pandemic. It could become necessary to close the administrative office with very little notice to customers due to pandemic related situations. If the administrative office closes to the public, the office will remain staffed daily. The Municipal Authority offers many convenient options for payment of sewer bills which do not require a visit to the office. Bills can be paid by mail to: P.O. Box 859, Bloomsburg, PA 17815; dropped off at the Authority's Payment Drop Box located at the Market Street office; in person at the East Street branch of First Columbia Bank (232 East Street—if the bank lobby closes, a walk-up customer window is available) or online by signing up with Xpress Bill Pay at xpressbillpay.com. Xpress Bill Pay offers the ability to make one-time payments as well as monthly automatic payments. Paperless billing is also available. The Municipal Authority urges everyone to stay safe and utilize one of these convenient bill paying options.

WATCH WHAT YOU FLUSH!

The Bloomsburg Wastewater Treatment Plant continues to see an increase in issues caused by items being flushed down toilets that were not meant to be flushed. The most common cause of many of these problems are personal care wipes, many of which are marketed as "flushable" when they actually are not. These wipes contain strong fibrous material that does not break down in the sewer system and causes clogs and other issues at the sewage treatment plant. The Bloomsburg Municipal Authority asks that you please be mindful of what you flush. Paper towels, personal care and baby wipes, cat litter, oil, grease and prescription medication are just a few examples of items which should NOT be flushed.

Your toilet should NOT be used as a trash can. Being mindful of what you flush keeps the sewer system and treatment plant in working order and saves everyone money.

COLLECTION OF PAST DUE SEWER BILLS

Bills for sewer service in the Town of Bloomsburg are due by the end of each month. If a bill becomes past due 90 days and/or the total due exceeds \$150, this total becomes delinquent and is subject to collection proceedings. Bills which meet these collection parameters will incur a 25% administrative collection fee immediately and could incur additional fees if magisterial action and/or shut-off actions are initiated. To avoid additional fees and possible interruption of your water service, please make certain that your sewer bills are paid by the end of each month.

Questions regarding balances which have moved to collection should be directed to the Municipal Authority's Billing and Collection Director by calling 570-784-5422, extension 2.

CONTACT THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY 1ST FOR SEWER ISSUES

The maintenance of sewer laterals (the pipe that runs from your home or business to the sewer main in the street) is the responsibility of the property owner. When you suspect there may be a problem with your line, please contact the Municipal Authority first, before you contact a third-party contractor. Municipal Authority staff can investigate the issue and determine whether or not the issue is with the lateral or the sewer main. Municipal Authority staff can be reached during regular business hours at 570-784-4738 or after hours call out service is available by calling 570-784-6790.

Municipal Authority Contact Numbers:

Billing and/or Collection Questions: 570-784-5422

Plant Operations Staff: 570-784-4738

After Hours (3:00pm - 7:00am and weekends/holidays): 570-784-6790