



WINTHROPHARBORPUBLICWORKS

2017 Water Rate Increase Information



BACKGROUND

The Village of Winthrop Harbor purchases water from the Lake County Public Water District (LCPWD) as outlined by contract dating back many years. The LCPWD has two (2) other customers purchasing water which are the City of Zion and the State of Illinois (North Point Marina). Each customer pays for their own water as metered through master water meters as it leaves the water plant. The LCPWD receives their water from a large intake pipe from Lake Michigan.

Section 50.027, Water Service Rates, is the section of the village ordinance that outlines the authorization to charge for water and sewer rates. This is reviewed annually by the Village Board. This is also the section that describes the need for adjustments due to the water rate increases or decreases from the LCPWD.

Over the last 30+ years, the Village Board has authorized increases in the water rates **only** seven (7) times with a large gap between 1992 & 2008. The current rate of \$5.00 per thousand gallons is the second lowest in Lake County.

This is the fund that maintains our water system along with purchasing our water. The village currently has over 36 miles of water mains of various materials, plus over 100 different valves. Some of these water mains date back to the 1950's.

INCREASED ADJUSTMENTS

Effective August 1, 2017, the Village of Winthrop Harbor will increase the water rates from \$5.00 per thousand gallons (tgal) to \$6.00 per thousand gallons of water. Additionally, a \$27.00 debt service fee will be added to each quarterly water bill.

The increase in the water rate is necessary to fund our Water/Sewer Division. This fund is a restricted fund that maintains our infrastructure and equipment for this Division. The cost of maintaining these items continues to rise as with everything else and focus is needed to start replacing some of the aging infrastructure.

The addition of a debt service fee is necessary to repay bonds taken out by the LCPWD. The Village of Winthrop Harbor pays a percentage of these bonds based on our usage. Our portion is \$240,000 per year compared to Zion's portion of approximately \$700,000 per year.

SENIOR DISCOUNTS

The Village Board has approved to continue offering a 10% discount for seniors on the water portion of their bills. This discount **does not** include the sewer portion or the new debt service fee. This discount has been in effect since 1991.

SAMPLE WATER/SEWER BILL

Current Water Rate	Increased Water Rate (Beginning August 1, 2017)	Current Sewer Rate
\$5.00 per 1,000 gallons	\$6.00 per 1,000 gallons	\$20.00
	\$27 Debt Service Fee	

SAMPLE WATER BILLS				
Item	Current Rates \$5 per tgal	New Rates \$6 per tgal (Effective 8/1/17)	Current Rates \$5 per tgal	New Rates \$6 per tgal (Effective 8/1/17)
	4,000 gallons		8,000 gallons	
Water Usage				
Water Charge	\$20.00	\$24.00	\$40.00	\$48.00
Infrastructure Maintenance Fee	\$1.00	N/A	\$1.00	N/A
Sewer Fee	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$26.40	\$26.40
LCPWD Debt Service Fee (Effective 8/1/17)	N/A	\$27.00	N/A	\$27.00
Total Quarterly Bill	\$41.00	\$71.00	\$67.40	\$101.40

TIPS TO SAVE WATER

Check your toilet(s) for leaks – Put a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. If the coloring begins to appear in the toilet bowl without flushing, you have a wasteful leak that should be corrected right away.

Check for leaks inside your house – Inspect all of your plumbing fixtures for leaks and repair right away.

Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors – Your hardware or plumbing supply store stocks inexpensive shower heads and flow restrictors that are easy to install and still give you cleansing, refreshing showers

Get more tips on conserving water at – www.epa.illinois.gov/citizens

QUESTIONS

Questions regarding this increase can be directed to Public Works by email at publicworks@winthroparbor.com or by phone 847-872-5275.