



LEICESTER WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT
124 PINE STREET - P.O. BOX 86
LEICESTER, MA 01524
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www.lwsd.net

April 15, 2016

Dear Customers:

For the past five years the Leicester Water Supply District has been using reserve funds to supplement annual expenditures to keep Customer bills affordable. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has mandated that the District make numerous improvements to the District's infrastructure.

To finance these water and sewer improvements, the District must make an adjustment in both water and sewer rates. Rate increases were approved on April 7, 2016, and the rate increases will appear on your Leicester Water Supply District bill to be mailed in July 2016.

Please note that the rate increase is driven by Federal and State regulation changes. Drinking water quality standards are set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and regulated by the MassDEP. Wastewater treatment requirements are governed by the USEPA with administration of limits through the MassDEP.

Water system improvements all involve maintaining safe potable water for you our customers. Mandated projects include painting the Paxton Hill Water Tanks, providing additional safety equipment for the Rawson Street Water Treatment Plant, installing new chlorination equipment at the Paxton Street Water Booster Station, and installing safety improvements at each of our four well houses.

The current District wastewater treatment plant was constructed over 30 years ago. The plant has operated fine for all these years needing only minor improvements and upgrades. However, many of the major pieces of equipment must now be replaced in order for the plant to continue to meet Federal treatment standards. New projects include replacement of worn out pumps, installation of new headworks facilities and replacement of solids removal equipment.

The District continues to treat our well water to remove harmful impurities like Arsenic, Uranium, and Radon. Operation of the two water treatment plants has caused an increase in water related expenditures of over 10% per year since completion of the Rawson facility in 2011. Repairs to the equipment at the wastewater plant have also increased annual expenditures by over 8% in past years. The District will be considering future construction projects at the sewer plant to handle increased wastewater flows from development along Route 9 and more stringent treatment requirements.

"This Institution is an equal opportunity provider. To file of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Right, Washington, DC 20250-9410."

Changes to the rates are as follows:

Base water charge will increase from \$45.00 to \$70.00 per quarter

Base sewer charge will increase from \$35.00 to \$50.00 per quarter

Consumption will continue to be charges from 1 cubic foot of use.

Billing will continue with a 3 step use structure.

The new water rates are as follows:

Base Charge	\$ 70.00 per quarter
1 st step (1-4000 CF)	\$ 4.90 per 100 CF
2 nd step (4001 – 12000 CF)	\$ 7.90 per 100 CF
3 rd step (Over 12,001 CF)	\$ 13.60 per 100 CF
Cross Connection Testing	\$ 75.00 semi-annually

The new sewer rates are as follows:

Base Charge	\$ 50.00 per quarter
1 st step (1- 6,500 CF)	\$ 5.85 per 100 CF
2 nd step (Over 6,500 CF)	\$ 7.50 per 100 CF
Sewer only accounts	\$150.00 per quarter

Please feel free to contact the District offices if you should have any questions regarding the rate changes. The office hours are 9:30AM to 2:00PM Monday through Thursday and 9:30AM to 1:00PM Friday.

Sincerely,

Leicester Board of Water Commissioners