



# News On Tap

Newsletter of the Leicester Water Supply District



Volume 2023 Issue 1

October 12, 2023

**District Office**  
124 Pine Street  
Leicester, MA

**Mailing Address**  
P.O. Box 86  
Leicester, MA 01524

**Office Phone**  
508-892-8484

**Emergency Phone**  
508-892-7009  
(Leicester  
Police Department)

**Website**  
[www.lwsd.net](http://www.lwsd.net)

**Board of Commissioners**  
*Chairman*  
J. Donald Lennerton, Jr.  
*Commissioners*  
Timothy W.P. McNaboe  
Leonard G. Margadonna

**Superintendent**  
Joseph H. Wood

**District Clerk**  
Nancy Almeida

**Treasurer**  
Tara Volesky

**Office Hours**  
Monday – Thursday  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Friday  
9:30 AM to 1:00 PM

The Leicester Water Supply District (LWSD) *News On Tap* is presented to provide information on LWSD history and happenings. This issue is focused on the evaluation and adjustment of LWSD rates to meet operating costs.

### Evaluation of Rates

After keeping rates unchanged since 2016, the LWSD adjusted rates last October. This past year, annual operating costs have continued to increase. As a result, the billing rates must be increased to ensure that the LWSD remains fiscally sustainable. The LWSD is a public entity, there are no profits being paid to your water and sewer utility all revenues go toward operating costs.

### Operating Costs

Our operating costs have continued to increase due to inflation and the rising costs for electricity, oil, gas, chemicals, sludge removal, equipment and materials. Additionally, our wastewater treatment facility was constructed in the 1980s and continuously requires preventative and emergency maintenance to keep equipment at the facility operating. Based on our anticipated Fiscal Year 2024 operating budget, a rate increase is required to avoid a revenue shortfall.

### New Rates

The Board of Commissioners met to review the rate evaluation findings and voted to implement new rates. The following rates are effective October 1, 2023.

	Water	Sewer
Base Rate	\$120.00	\$120.00
Tier 1 (0 – 1,500 cf)	\$6.00 per 100 cf	\$6.00 per 100 cf
Tier 2 (1,501 – 3,500 cf)	\$8.00 per 100 cf	\$8.00 per 100 cf
Tier 3 (3,501 – 5,000 cf)	\$10.00 per 100 cf	\$11.00 per 100 cf
Tier 4 (5,001 cf and greater)	\$15.00 per 100 cf	\$15.00 per 100 cf
Sewer Only	--	\$230.00

### **Key Points**

- The LWSD is cost conscious and works to control operations costs.
- Operating costs continue to increase with inflation.
- Aging infrastructure continues to require maintenance and replacement.
- More rain this summer meant lower water use and lower revenues. All the rain also impacted the wastewater treatment facility since some rain water makes its way into the sanitary sewer system flowing to the wastewater treatment facility which increased operating costs.
- It is anticipated that the average customer will see annual water and sewer bills increase by about 30% as compared with bills this past year.