

## Article B: User Charge System

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### Sec. 9-2-20 Basis for Sewer User Charges.

- (a) **Sewer Users Served by Village Water Meters.** There is hereby levied and assessed upon each lot, parcel of land, building or premises having a connection with the wastewater collection system and being served with water metered by the Village, a sewer user charge based, in part, on the quantity of water used as measured by the Village water meter on the premises.
- (b) **Sewer Users Served by Unmetered Sources.** Except as provided below, no sewer user shall be served by unmetered sources (private or public). All persons discharging wastewater into the wastewater collection sewer system shall be required to have water meters installed for the purpose of determining the volume of water consumed. Where wastewater meters are already installed, the water meters will not be required. Water meters shall be furnished by the Village and installed under its supervision.
- (c) **Measurement of Flow From High Strength or Toxic Waste Dischargers.**
  - (1) **Volume Determination.** The volume of flow used for computing the user charge shall be the metered water consumption of the user as shown in the records of meter readings maintained by the Village, except as noted in Sec. 9-2-11(d).
  - (2) **Provisions for Deductions.** In the event that an establishment discharging industrial waste into the wastewater collection system produces evidence satisfactory to the Approving Authority that more than twenty percent (20%) of the total annual volume of water used for all purposes does not reach the collection system, then the determination of the water consumption to be used in computing the waste volume discharged into the collection system may be made a matter of agreement between the Approving Authority and the user. Satisfactory evidence shall be evidence obtained by approved metering.
- (d) **Metering of Industrial Waste.** Devices for measuring the volume of waste discharged may be required by the Approving Authority if this volume cannot otherwise be determined from the metered water consumption records. Metering devices for determining the volume of waste shall be installed, owned and maintained by the discharger. A maintenance schedule must be accepted by the Approving Authority. Following approval and installation, such meters may not be removed without the consent of the Approving Authority.
- (e) **Waste Sampling.**
  - (1) Industrial wastes discharged into the wastewater collection system shall be subject to periodic inspection and a determination of character and concentration of said wastes. The determination shall be made by the industry as often as may be deemed necessary by the Approving Authority.

- (2) Sampling shall be collected in such a manner as to be representative of the composition of the wastes. The sampling may be accomplished either manually or by the use of mechanical equipment acceptable to the Approving Authority.
- (3) Installation, operation and maintenance of the sampling facilities shall be the responsibility of the user discharging the waste and shall be subject to the approval of the Approving Authority. Access to sampling locations shall be granted to the Approving Authority or its duly authorized representatives at all times. Every care shall be exercised in the collection of samples to ensure their preservation in a state comparable to that at the time the sample was taken.
- (f) **Free Service Prohibited.** No user shall receive free service or pay a sewer user charge less than the user's proportional share of operation, maintenance and replacement costs.
- (g) **Outside Service.** All users within the sewer service area of the Village of Wausaukee shall be treated equally as to sewer user charges regardless of their location with respect to the Village boundaries.

### **Sec. 9-2-21 Billing Practice.**

- (a) **Quarterly Billing Period.** Sewer user charges for all customers shall be billed on a quarterly basis.
- (b) **Payment.** Sewer user charges shall be included as separate items on the regular quarterly statement for water services or as otherwise determined by the Approving Authority. Sewer user charges shall be payable at the Office of the Approving Authority or any other officially designated location at the same time that the water statements become due, and payments for water service shall not be accepted without full payment of the sewer user charges.
- (c) **Penalties.** Charges levied in accordance with this Chapter shall be a debt due to the Village of Wausaukee. If the debt is not paid within twenty (20) days after it is due and payable, it shall be deemed delinquent. There shall be an added of one and one-half percent (1.5 %) per month of the amount of the quarterly bill. Charges and penalties shall constitute a lien upon the property services and be recorded on the Village's tax roll. Change of ownership or occupancy of premises found delinquent shall not be cause for reducing or eliminating these penalties.
- (d) **Notification.** Each user shall be notified annually, in conjunction with a regular bill, of the rate schedule attributable to wastewater treatment services including an explanation of the charges.
- (e) **Adjustments.** Each user shall be notified annually, in conjunction with a regular bill, of the rate schedule attributable to wastewater treatment services, including an explanation of the charges.
- (f) **Adjustments.**
  - (1) The sewage bill adjustments can be in the form of a credit adjustment, which authorizes the Village Board to credit the customer's account or an actual check directly payable to the customer.

- (2) A maximum back review period of one (1) year from the date of the project will be applied to all sewage credit requests. The Village Board must approve all sewage bill adjustments for One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) or greater prior to issuance.
- (3) Customers can pursue sewage bill adjustments in the form of a water leak credit.
- (g) **Water Leak Credit.**
- (1) The following situations are included under the water leak credit category: Broken and/or leaky water pipes or plumbing fixtures. A request for a water leak credit will only be considered for approval by the Village Board when it is One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).
- (2) Following a request for a water leak credit from the customer or Water/Sewer Utility personnel, information is requested from the Village Board. The information is reviewed to verify that the necessary repairs have been made (request proof of repair where applicable). An average amount of water use before and after the leak has been repaired is determined. A sewage bill adjustment is issued, if water usage during the period of the plumbing defect exceeds the customer's use.

## Sec. 9-2-22 Amount of User Charges.

- (a) **Generally.** The customer rates for the Village Water and Sewer Utility shall be determined by the current rate order of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. The rates for licensed dischargers for septic and holding tank waste disposal shall be determined by the current rate order of the Wausaukee Water and Sewer Utility fee schedule.
- (b) **Sewer Rates Established.** The current quarterly sewer rates are as follows:

5/8-inch meter -	\$	77.01
3/4-inch meter -	\$	77.01
1-inch meter -	\$	190.62
1-1/2-inch meter -	\$	381.25
2-inch meter -	\$	610.01
3-inch meter w/25% surchrg -	\$	1,143.77

Plus Volume Charge:

Per 1,000 gallons	\$	5.14
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- (c) **Sewer Credit Policy.**
- (1) On occasion, the Wausaukee Water and Sewer Utility has customers who receive a substantially higher than normal (more than 150% of normal usage) sewer usage bill due to a water leak at their home or business. When this occurs, the customer has a

- responsibility to contact the Utility as soon as possible. The Water and Sewer Utility and/or Public Works Supervisor must investigate all requests and report their findings to the Water and Sewer Committee prior to approval.
- (2) A credit for sewer usage (not quarterly base charge) will be issued based on the following:
    - a. The excess will be determined by taking the greater of the actual read for this quarter less the two (2) year customer average.
    - b. If sufficient documentation can be provided to the Village indicating the excess water did not enter the sanitary sewer system, a credit for the portion of flow not entering the system will be given in full or one hundred percent (100%). (Example: a water break in a lateral under the building and water entered the ground.)
    - c. If the excess water used entered the sanitary sewer system, a credit of fifty percent (50%) will be given for the usage sewer charge. (Example: a leaking toilet or faucet.)
    - d. Only one (1) credit will be allowed in any five year period. This will encourage the customer to repair the leak. Sometimes it may be less expensive to pay for higher usage than to repair the leak so the limited time credit must be enforced.
  - (3) Per the authority of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, credit for water used is not permitted. This includes excess water metered due to leaks.

### **Sec. 9-2-23 Audit.**

The Village of Wausaukee shall conduct an annual audit, the purpose of which shall be to re-establish the equity and adequacy of the user charges relative to changes in system operation and maintenance costs.