

City of Mosinee

WATER & SEWER UTILITY NEWS MARCH 2015

CITY WATER UTILITY RATES TO INCREASE IN APRIL TO FINANCE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

As we reported last month, the City of Mosinee is currently undertaking extensive improvements at the Mosinee Avenue Water Utilities Facility that will significantly enhance the quality of our municipal drinking water! The Mosinee Avenue Water Utilities Facility is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Mosinee Avenue and Rangeline Road (kitty-corner from Charlie's Hardware); and the facility currently consists of three municipal drinking water wells and the Water Treatment Plant that was constructed in 1995.

The water facility improvements project includes the reconstruction of the three (3) municipal drinking water wells that are approximately 40-years & 50-years in age and also the installation of a new filtration system within the Water Treatment Plant.

The rehabilitation of the municipal drinking wells is intended to eliminate the significant microbial growth within the existing wells and the installation of the new Biologically Active Filtration System within the Treatment Plant is intended to enhance the removal of iron, manganese and organic carbon from our municipal drinking water. The water system improvements will also bring the City back into compliance with federal & state lead, copper and disinfection by-products drinking water quality standards. It is important to note that lead and copper are not present in the well water that is pumped into the distribution system, but corrosion of lead & copper water service lines and household plumbing fixtures causes these constituents to show up in the drinking water quality tests.

The City Engineering Consultant's total estimated construction cost (including engineering) for rehabbing the existing three municipal drinking wells and also retrofitting the Water Treatment Plant at the Mosinee Avenue Water Utilities Facility is approximately \$2,717,190.

The City applied to the State of Wisconsin's Safe Drinking Water Loan Program to provide loan and grant financing for the planned water system improvements at the Mosinee Avenue Water Utility Facility. Fortunately, the City has been approved to receive a Principal Forgiveness Grant of up to \$392,669 and the City will also receive a low interest (1.65%) 20-year loan to finance the remaining costs of the project.

Unfortunately, in order to pay the debt service for the Mosinee Avenue Water System Improvements Project it is necessary to increase the City's water and public fire protection utility service rates.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin held a public hearing on March 4, 2015 pertaining to a proposed new water & public fire protection service rate schedule for the City's Water Utility that will increase the monthly bill for an *average residential customer that uses 3,000 gallons per month* by \$13.02 per month.

PROJECTED MONTHLY WATER & FIRE PROTECTION RATE INCREASES BASED ON HOUSEHOLD TYPE

<u>1-Person Household</u>	<u>2-Person Household</u>	<u>3-Person Household</u>	<u>4-Person Household</u>
+\$9.54	+\$13.02	+14.76	+\$16.50

The City is anticipating that the new water & fire protection utility rate schedule will go into effect for the next billing period following April 1, 2015.

If you would like to obtain an estimate (based on your average water usage) regarding how much your utility bill would increase as a result of the proposed water & fire protection rates, please either call (715.693.2275), e-mail (cityadm@mosinee.wi.us) or stop in Mosinee City Hall during normal business hours.

Your local government certainly recognizes and empathizes that the planned water & fire protection rate increase may negatively affect our residents and businesses, especially those on a fixed income. That is certainly why the City has done everything we could possibly do to not increase the water & fire protection utility rates for the last 17 years (1998 was the last time)!

Please be assured that the City is confident that the improvements at the Mosinee Avenue Water Utility Facility will provide safe and reliable municipal drinking water to our community for the next 20 years and beyond!

WARNING - Do Not to Flush Wipes!

We all enjoy modern conveniences such as anti-bacterial wipes, flushable wipes, disposable diapers, etc. Our utility operators have seen an increase in rags and wipes in our sewer mains. Unfortunately, these items are notorious for plugging up wastewater pumps and can get caught on roots or other debris in sewer lines causing backups to occur. **We strongly advise against flushing these products.** While manufactures advertise them as biodegradable, it takes significant time to breakdown the fiber bonds. Before the fiber bonds breakdown this "cloth like" material can create blockages in sewer pipes and pumping equipment that will lead to sewer back-ups. These items do not break down like toilet paper does. When backups occur as a result of these types of items, it is often at the expense of the property owner.

Grease is another issue that causes problems. Grease should be wiped from pans and disposed of in the garbage prior to washing dishes. Using soaps that claim to eliminate grease, only breaks it down for a short period of time where it again congeals further down the sewer line, clinging to other debris such as rags or roots.

Remember, the sewer line that backs up could be yours!