



Trumbull County
Water and Sewer Accounting Department
842 Youngstown-Kingsville Road
Vienna, Ohio 44473-9737
Office Hours: Mon. – Fri., 8:30 AM – 4:20 PM
Phone: (330) 675-2475

May 10, 2018

EXAMPLE

Account: XX-XX-XXXXXXX-XXX
Service Address

Joe & Jane Smith
123 Main Street
Warren, OH 4448X-XXXX

SUBJECT: NOTICE REGARDING BILLING CHANGE AND RATE INCREASE

You are receiving this notification due to the fact that you are a City of Warren business or resident that utilizes sanitary sewer services owned and operated by Trumbull County. In 1982 and 1987 respectively, the County and City established agreements for the purpose of addressing the collection and treatment of wastewater which is discharged from within the corporation boundaries of the City into the County sewer system. The Agreements set forth the formula as to how the City would charge for the services provided. Those terms and conditions previously agreed upon have served both Trumbull County and the City of Warren well.

Unfortunately, recent decisions by the City of Warren have resulted in the County's decision to terminate these long-standing agreements. Consequently, approximately 180 calendar days from now, you will be billed directly by the County for sanitary sewer services. Regrettably, we must also inform you of an imminent rate hike regarding this service. Further, any incidental expense related to the transition of this process, including hardware, software, etc. will be added accordingly to the rate structure. Although we recognize the unquestionable financial burden this places upon you, Trumbull County has no practical alternatives.

For your awareness the County has worked closely with the Warren administration(s) throughout the years and will continue to do so. This relationship has included a focus on maintaining existing business, promoting economic growth and development, and providing materials and various services to the City at a reasonable cost. The County has embraced the notion that our mutual success is intertwined.

Recently, the City and County were in the process of negotiating the renewal of a 1998 sewer service agreement to receive flow from the communities of Champion and Lordstown. Although the County is of the opinion that these longstanding agreements for the collection and/or treatment of wastewater between our entities have been commensurate and equitable, it has become readily apparent that the City of Warren believes otherwise. The City has asserted the position that the County has been receiving a "sweet heart" deal as it relates to the existing rate structure and is now demanding an excessive rate increase upon these communities. It was suggested by City representatives that by charging an exorbitant outside user rate to Trumbull County, annexation by Township property owners into the City would actually be encouraged. The County respectfully disagrees with this assertion, as the current formula is the same one used between every other city within Trumbull County. The County maintains its position that rate schedules should reflect directly upon the actual cost of the services being rendered. Regarding

infrastructure, one governmental entity should not be subsidizing the operational costs of another.

Moving forward, the County has no option other than to pass along this cost to the consumer. Once the new base rate structure has been unilaterally imposed by the City, the County will then be positioned to provide you with an accurate accounting of your anticipated rate from the County.

Your current sewer rate is \$4.65 per 1,000 gallons of usage. Based upon preliminary discussions with the City, it would appear that your forecasted rate is estimated to be:

Rate Year	Estimated Rate per 1,000 Gallons	Percent Increase from Previous Year
2019	\$ 6.06	30%
2020	\$ 9.11	50%
2021	\$ 12.15	33%
2022	\$ 15.20	25%
2023	\$ 18.25	20%
2024	\$ 21.30	17%

At this time the County has entered into engineering consulting contracts for the purpose of exploring options regarding the supply of drinking water and treatment of sewage from sources other than Warren City. We will keep all impacted parties aware moving forward.

Another option that may exist for Warren City businesses or residents impacted by this new rate, is to de-annex from the City. By doing so, the County would be able to provide you with a considerably more affordable rate structure for sewage disposal. Although the County will not promote this course of action, we would be remiss to remove such an option available to you.

The County will continue to operate with full transparency and disclosure in this matter. The focus will remain centered on what is in the overall best interest of Trumbull County.