

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR UTILITY BILL

## RATE INFORMATION

### **Water Rate:**

Water Rate: per thousand gallons	<b>\$3.35</b>
Water Readiness to Serve: flat quarterly rate	<b>\$11.25</b>

### **Sprinkler Meter:**

Water Rate: per thousand gallons	<b>\$3.74</b>
Water Readiness to Serve: flat quarterly rate	<b>\$2.81</b>

### ***Sprinkler Meter Water Rate:***

Sprinklers create a high demand on the water treatment plant, creating high electrical and chemical costs as well as overtime pay for running the plant 24 hours a day. The increased sprinkler rate is needed to cover the increased cost to produce water during the high demand period of summertime.

### **Sewer Rate:**

Sewer Rate: per thousand gallons	<b>\$4.82</b>
Sewer Readiness to Serve: flat quarterly rate	<b>\$8.34</b>
Debt Service Fee: flat rate quarterly rate	<b>\$67.38</b>

### **Waste Management** (Refuse Collection, Recycling, Compost)

Residential Rate: quarterly flat rate per home/unit	<b>\$39.33</b>
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### **Meter Replacement Charges**

5/8" Residential Meter	<b>\$3.13</b>	2" Meter	<b>\$7.69</b>
3/4" Sprinkler Meter	<b>\$3.54</b>	3" Meter	<b>\$24.46</b>
1" Meter	<b>\$4.03</b>	4" Meter	<b>\$33.69</b>
1 1/2" Meter	<b>\$6.19</b>		

## WHAT IS?

### **Readiness to Serve Charge:**

The amount needed to cover the cost of delivering the water, maintaining the system, meter reading, meter installation, water mains and fire hydrant repairs.

### **Commodity Charge (water & sewer):**

The amount of water used. Sewer charges are based on water usage. Commodity charges covers the cost of treating the water (chemicals, electricity, wages), and total plant operations divided by gallons sold.

### **Meter Charge:**

The replacement cost of the meter in 20 years (the expected life of the meter). It is the cost of the household meter divided by the 20 year life of the meter, or the cost of the large commercial meter divided by the 20 year life of the meter.

**New Debt Service Fee:** This is the restructured fee which has been removed from the former sewer rate fees. The fee is to cover the state revolving fund loan payments each year for the Wastewater plant. (This fee was formerly included in the commodity fee and the flat quarterly rate).

### **FYI:**

The readiness to serve fees and the meter replacement fees were removed from the commodity rate and now serve as a flat rate. If these fees were rolled into the commodity rate, large water users or residents with a water leak would pay more than their fair share to cover these costs.

## HOW TO READ YOUR METER

All customers within the City of New Baltimore have their water usage measured by a meter. This way, each customer is paying their share of operating the system based upon the amount of water used.

Nothing is better in the summer than a beautiful yard! However, it is important to keep in mind that the more water used, the higher the water bill will be. One way to keep an eye on the water usage is to read the meter regularly.

### **Locate Your Meter:**

Water meters are generally located in the basement in a direct line with the main outside faucet. In some of the older homes the meter can be found in utility rooms, closets, behind or under stairways or in a crawlspace.

### **Read Your Meter:**

Most of the homes have a digital meter. In order to read the meter, a flashlight is needed. There is a symbol of a flashlight on the lower left-hand corner of the meter. The flashlight needs to be directly shined on this area to read the 8 digital numbers. The meter is read left to right like a diagram.

*Example:* The reading on the meter below is **0301** and the usage is **51 thousand gallons**.

### **Keep Track!**

Keep track of your reads monthly. This way the usage of water for each month can be calculated.

**Please feel free to contact the City of New Baltimore with any questions at  
586-725-2151 or the  
Water Department at 586-725-7300.**



<u>Code</u>	<u>Curr Read</u>	<u>Prev Read</u>	<u>Usage</u>
WA	0301	0250	51.00

