

TOWN OF STURBRIDGE
FY12 WATER AND SEWER RATE SUMMARY

Dear Sturbridge Water / Sewer Customer:

Customers of the Town’s water and sewer systems will note that the Fiscal Year 2012 rates for water and sewer operations have increased rather significantly due primarily to debt service associated with the following capital improvements as approved by Town Meeting voters:

- Water: Route 131 Water Main Project \$1,557,000
- Water: Well #4 Construction \$3,769,000
- Sewer: Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades \$17,666,000

Upgrades to the WWTP were mandated by more stringent discharge limits on phosphorous imposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Increased chemical costs at the WWTP are projected due to the higher treatment standard, and, bringing the WWTP and new Well #4 facilities online requires retention of an additional full-time employee to be shared between the Water and Sewer departments.

Fiscal 2012 Budgets and Rates

The following charts illustrate the change in budget and rates from FY11 to FY12. It should be noted that the Board of Selectmen, acting as Water and Sewer Commissioners, approved an allocation of \$181,024 from each of the Water and Sewer reserves to help mitigate the increase in rates.

WATER DEPARTMENT	FY11 Budget	FY11 Rate (per 100 ft³)	FY12 Budget	FY12 Rate (per 100 ft³)	% chg
	\$755,766	\$3.27	\$1,155,067	\$4.41	34.8

SEWER DEPARTMENT	FY11 Budget	FY11 Rate (per 100 ft³)	FY12 Budget	FY12 Rate (per 100 ft³)	% chg
	\$1,195,982	\$4.59	\$2,135,867	\$7.97	73.6
Flat Sewer Rate		\$108/qtr.		\$150/qtr.	

Rates Approved by Board of Selectmen acting as Water and Sewer Commissioners

Investing in your water and wastewater infrastructure is important to provide for the long-term viability of the systems and to comply with ever-increasing state and federal mandates. Well #4 was recently tested through MassDEP and is now online while the wastewater treatment plant upgrade is slated for completion early next year.

If you have any questions, please contact the Selectmen’s office at 508-347-2500. Thank you.

Shaun A. Suhoski, Town Administrator