



www.cranberrytownship.org

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June 5, 2015

Your water rate is about to go up. Sewer rates may follow. Here's why:

Dear fellow resident:

In 2014 we began the process of paying for three major projects that will secure Cranberry's water and sewer systems for the foreseeable future. One is the July 1 35% rate increase from the West View Water Authority, which will be used to finance their construction of a new water treatment plant in Beaver County, together with pumping stations and pipelines connecting it to Cranberry.

Prior to Cranberry's signing a new long-term supply agreement with West View last year, we worked with the Authority to make sure their investment would enhance our ability to serve our own customers well into the future and complement Cranberry's infrastructure planning.

On May 6, our Board of Supervisors approved an increase in our rates to absorb the West View increase for meter readings taken on or after July 20. On average, residential customers will see an increase of \$8.85 per month. Business rates will go up in proportion to their meter-size.

The second major development is an upgrade and expansion of our own Brush Creek wastewater treatment plant. That upgrade is designed to meet the treatment standards stipulated in our new Federal and State operating permits. It is also designed to handle the additional capacity projected over the next 15-20 years. Final costs will be determined by early 2016, with construction starting shortly thereafter. Sewer rates were adjusted last year to pay the plant's initial design and permitting costs and a portion of its anticipated financing costs. When its final cost is known, those rates may need to be adjusted again.

The third project involves replacing the mechanical water meters of our residential and business customers with new meters utilizing real-time radio read technology. Many of our current meters have exceeded their useful life and impede our ability to manage the water system efficiently. A portion of the rate increase provides for financing the meter replacement program.

Once completed, these projects will give our system sufficient water delivery and sewage treatment capacity to meet Cranberry's needs well into the future and to satisfy environmental regulations. The new meters will provide customers with unprecedented control over their own water use.

Of course, nobody likes to pay more for their utilities, so Cranberry Township has worked hard to operate its sewer and water systems in the most cost effective manner possible. Our operating costs are consistently below the industry standards and our water system is 50% lower than the industry average for water loss. Our Board has insisted on operating efficiencies and benchmarking to avoid unnecessary rate increases. And they will not allow our current needs to grow into crises for future Boards by postponing the repairs and upgrades required to meet evolving environmental standards and customer demand.

I invite you to learn more about our sewer and water infrastructure projects on our website, at public meetings, and through other staff outreach efforts. And I invite your comments at Jerry.Andree@Cranberrytownship.org, or by calling me at 724-776-4806 ext. 1108.

Sincerely,

Jerry A. Andree
Township Manager