

Frequently Asked Questions for Water/ Sewer Rate Changes

Village of Lena 9/2/2021

Why are my rates going up?

Water rates have not changed in nearly a decade. Sewer rates have changed once in about the same amount of time. Inflation over this time has increased the costs of everything. Meanwhile the water/sewer infrastructure continues to get older and less reliable. The Village of Lena wants to make sure that you have safe drinking water and sanitary systems. In order to maintain this, an increase is needed to support infrastructure repairs and replacements.

I pay a lot in property taxes; don't they cover this?

Property taxes cannot be used for the water and sewer departments. If the Village of Lena gives taxpayer money to the water/sewer departments it is a loan and has to be paid back. The water/sewer departments are separate entities that have to pay for their own overhead and costs only by what they receive from water and sewer rates.

How do Lena rates compare to the region?

The Village of Lena conducted a study of water and sewer rates of 9 other municipalities in the region. The average base/minimum charge for water and sewer was \$48.74 per month. The new minimum rate (including the capital improvement fees) is \$43.70 per month. The average water cost per 1,000 gallons is \$3.92 and sewer cost per 1,000 gallons is \$5.67. The new rates for Lena are \$3.30 and \$5.70 respectively.

When will I see the new rates on my bill?

The October 2021 billing period.

Who can I contact for further questions?

The Water & Sewer Chair, Brandon Smith will be happy to answer any questions. Please send an email with your question to watersewer@villageoflena.com.