

Monroe Township Municipal Authority News

November 2019

What Makes up your Sewer Bill?

Debt: Did you know that approximately 60 percent of your bill is used to pay long term debt (loans & bonds)? The sources of that debt include:

- Debt remaining from the installation of both the Northern District and Southern District systems. It has been refinanced several times to take advantage of lower interest rates but some still remains on the books.
- Costs of previous projects that required borrowing.
- Most recently, the costs of the upgrades to both the Mechanicsburg and South Middleton Sewage Treatment Plants that our system feeds into. This work was mandated by the federal government as part of the Chesapeake Bay Initiative; one of the largest unfunded mandates that our region of PA has ever had to face. No federal or state grants are available to help anyone to pay for the mandated work to be done within Monroe or at our partner treatment plants. The mandated projects and growing costs continue to impact our sewer system and storm water management programs both within Monroe and surrounding townships.

Treatment: Cost of treatment is based on the total volume of sewage processed at the treatment plants, which is a combination of actual sewage from homes connected to the sewer system and I&I (see previous Authority News). When I&I such as groundwater, or water from sump pumps and rain gutters enters the system, we pay for it through increased treatment costs. Budgeting and planning for these costs are a challenge because the volume of I&I is always changing. What is known is that only the approximately 1,200 households that make up our sewer districts have to pay for these costs.

Maintenance, repairs and personnel costs: The need for maintenance and repair of a system that started being installed nearly 50 years ago is ongoing. In the past several years, we have been successfully making changes to the management, planning and budgeting of our systems. Our goals are listed below – Simply put we are utilizing the tools available to us to manage our system, our debt load and reduce I&I.

Monroe Township's Sewer System Goals

1. *Maintain accurate system inventory assessment*
 2. *Create & maintain a list of repair and maintenance work prioritized based on their estimated costs and ability to reduce I&I*
 3. *Using items 1 & 2, seek all possible grant opportunities*
 4. *Incorporate work into annual operations budget*
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Always Invited

All of Monroe's meetings are open to the public.

Please feel free to attend to see firsthand all that goes into supporting our hometown and to maybe see how you can get involved.

Check out Monroe Township's website for more info. and the meeting schedules for all of our Township's leadership boards; Board of Supervisor, Recreation, Municipal Authority, Planning Commission & Zoning Hearing.

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