

**BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
SCHEDULE OF WASTEWATER RATES**

**PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL CONSUMERS**

Adopted: December 21, 2020  
Effective Date: All billing after January 1, 2021  
Service Area: All

NATURE OF SERVICE PROVIDED:

Wastewater service shall be provided for the purposes provided to users in accordance with, and users shall comply with, Chapter 240 of the Jamestown City Code and Jamestown Sewer Use Ordinance. All facilities connected with the Wastewater system must comply with the Jamestown Plumbing Code. For the purposes of this document, the terms “wastewater” and “sewer” are used interchangeably.

BILLING DEFINITIONS:

**Wastewater Account:** A *Wastewater Account* is considered a single water meter providing service to one or more occupancy units within a building. An occupancy unit consists of a building, or portion thereof, with separate kitchen and sanitary facilities. One building may contain two or more occupancy units.

**Basic Service Charge:** A *Basic Service Charge* is a fixed charge per month associated with basic costs such as meter readings, billing, etc., and operation and maintenance costs. This charge will be billed to all Wastewater customers connected to the wastewater (sewage) system whether or not there is any water consumption.

**Billing Unit:** A *Billing Unit* is defined as "100 cubic feet of water" as measured by the water meter and is equivalent to approximately 748 US gallons of water.

**Usage Charge:** The *Usage Charge* is the charge per billing unit based upon the amount of water consumed each billing period.

**Meter Reading:** A *Meter Reading* is typically obtained by reading the actual water meter on a monthly basis. The Board of Public Utilities may estimate that monthly reading in the event it is unable to obtain the actual reading. The estimated reading shall be so designated on the bill and is based on previous meter readings for the account. It is the responsibility of the property/building owner to provide the Board of Public Utilities proper access to the meter to enable its reading, inspection, and maintenance.

**Combined Monthly Bill:** A customer in a single dwelling unit that is provided water service plus other BPU utility services such as electric and/or water service will be provided a *Combined Monthly Bill* that clearly states the billing for each individual service provided and total billing for the combined utility services. A single dwelling unit does not have the option of splitting this Combined Monthly Bill. Only one bill will be provided per dwelling unit.

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GENERAL SERVICE - METERED ACCOUNTS:

All wastewater shall be measured by water meters installed, unless categorized as unmetered public service. All metered accounts will incur monthly basic service and consumption charges based on district. Districts are as follows:

- District 1 – City of Jamestown, New York
- District 2 – Village of Falconer, New York
- District 4 – Town of Ellicott, New York
- District 6 – Town of Kiantone, New York
- District 10 – Town of Busti (Jamestown-Busti), New York
- District 20 – Town of N. Harmony, New York

The Basic Service Charge will be charged to all connections to the wastewater system through which wastewater service could be provided, whether or not the service is active. A metered account will be placed in the name of the property owner in the event of vacancy at a service location. A property owner will not be responsible to pay the basic service charge if an abandonment contract is signed by the owner.<sup>1</sup>

METERED CONSUMPTION – MONTHLY USAGE CHARGE:

Wastewater (sewer) rents as herein imposed shall be based upon the metered consumption of water on premises connected with and served by the wastewater system of the City of Jamestown or such part or parts thereof.

UNMETERED RESIDENTIAL SERVICE:

Residential users of the Wastewater System that are not served by a public water supply will be billed monthly for water consumption based upon an estimated water usage made by the General Manager or his designee. At its option, the BPU may require the customer to install a water meter that meets BPU specifications at customer expense.

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL SERVICES WITHOUT PUBLIC WATER:

Commercial and Industrial users of the Wastewater System that are not supplied by a public water supply will be required to meter their water supply at the water pump and will be billed on this metered usage at the current rate plus a basic service charge (the basic service charge is based on the size of the water service lateral). It should be noted that if the user does not discharge the total amount of water pumped, the user will be required to install a meter to measure the amount of the discharge to the sanitary sewer system. The Wastewater Division engineering staff will have the final approval on this method of metering.

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<sup>1</sup> Reference Jamestown Board of Public Utilities' Water Division Schedule of Rates, "Abandonment of Water Service".

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WASTEWATER (SEWAGE) PROCESSING RATES:

The BPU accepts for processing certain municipal and commercial wastewater (sewage) wastes that are compatible with the efficient operation of the wastewater treatment plant. Said sewage waste is accepted only at designated locations within the area served by the BPU Wastewater system. Unauthorized dumping of any waste into the collection system is illegal. Septage from recreational vehicles is not accepted.

The processing rates are updated every January. *Reference Appendix A.*

Arrangements may be made for the processing of other wastes on an as-needed and contractual basis.

WASTEWATER (SEWER) LATERAL:

The property owner owns, and is responsible for the maintenance, repair and replacement of, the sewer lateral from the point of connection to the BPU's sewer main to the home or building receiving service. All sewer laterals must be water-tight so as to prevent the escape of sewage, or the infiltration of ground water.

WASTE ACCEPTED:

Wastes other than ordinary household sewage and approved industrial wastes are not permitted in the sewage system. Excess grease, hair, paper and solid objects cause sewage wastewater system blockage and backup, strain the processing plant, and increase the cost of operation.

ILLEGAL AND DEFECTIVE SEWER CONNECTIONS

An illegal connection to the sanitary sewer system is a connection that permits surface or ground water to enter the sanitary system (e.g. downspouts, foundation drains, sump pumps connected to the sanitary system). Illegal connections to the sanitary system are prohibited by New York State Plumbing Code and Jamestown City Code. If an illegal connection is identified, a written notice will be sent to the property owner. The property owner is required to eliminate the illegal connection(s) in accordance with New York State Plumbing Code. The property owner must file a Plumbing Permit with the BPU prior to commencing work. Once the work has been performed, the property owner will need to contact the BPU for an inspection.

The removal of all illegal connections must be scheduled within one month from the date that the written notice is sent to the property owner and be completed in a reasonable period of time. The property owner will be responsible for a monthly charge until all illegal connections have been properly removed and an inspection has been performed by the BPU. The charge for illegal residential downspout connection(s) is \$40.69 per month, and the charge for each illegal

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residential sump pump connection is \$37.72 per month. The monthly charge for other types of illegal connections and for commercial/industrial customers will be determined on a case by case basis. All charges to the property owner for non-compliance will be in addition to all wastewater basic service, consumption, and other charges, and are subject to late fees and penalties. The charges are not eligible for deferred payment agreements.

A defective connection to the sanitary system is one which is not watertight or in which the flow of wastewater from a building to the sewer main has been hindered or obstructed, causing backups or infiltration of wastewater into the surrounding environment. Defective connections are prohibited by Chautauqua County Sanitary Code and Jamestown City Code. Once a defective connection to the sanitary system has been identified, a written notice will be sent to the property owner. The appropriate repairs must be scheduled to be completed within a reasonable amount of time in accordance with the circumstances.

All repairs or replacements of sanitary sewer laterals (from the building to the sewer main) must be performed by a Master Plumber licensed with the City of Jamestown and be inspected by the BPU. If a defective connection is not repaired by a licensed Master Plumber within a reasonable time limit, water service may be disconnected at the BPU's discretion until all repairs are completed. It should be noted that water service may be disconnected at any time if a defective connection poses a hazard to public health.

Illegal and defective connections to the sanitary system are prohibited by Sections 240-21 and 240-22 of the Jamestown City Code. If a property owner fails to comply with properly addressing illegal and/or defective sewer connections in accordance with this policy, the matter may be turned over to Code Enforcement pursuant to City Code sections 240-26 through 240-28.

**TERMS OF PAYMENT:**

Regular bills for water service will be rendered monthly. Bills rendered are due upon receipt, and are considered delinquent 23 days from the billing date. Bills may be paid at the BPU or other places as designated by the BPU. If bills are not paid within the period specified thereon, the customer shall be required to pay a late payment charge at the rate of one and one-half percent (1½%) per month, which will be applied to all amounts previously billed, including arrears and unpaid late payment charges.

Water service is subject to disconnection for the non-payment of wastewater charges 15 days after payment becomes delinquent. If water service is disconnected for wastewater non-payment, it will not be restored except upon payment of past due bills, plus late payment charge, and a service reconnection charge of \$50.00 within regular working hours or \$175.00 outside of regular working hours. The BPU has up to five business days to restore water service, but strives to restore service within one business day.

Failure to receive a bill will not release a consumer from payment obligations or entitle the consumer to escape the late payment charge imposed on delinquent accounts.

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A collection fee of \$25.00 will be assessed on the next bill if the customer’s service is subject to disconnection, and payment is received at the customer’s premises.

UNPAID WASTEWATER CHARGES:

Based on individual inter-municipal wastewater contracts, some municipalities in which the BPU provides wastewater service may place unpaid wastewater charges on tax bills and these charges may become a utility lien. Detailed information regarding collection of unpaid wastewater charges is listed by district, where applicable.

MAIN EXTENSION POLICY:

The BPU may extend wastewater mains upon proper application to serve an applicant, a customer, or customers, within its retail service area, provided that, in the sole opinion of the BPU, the extension is feasible, practical, adheres to good operating practice, where such extension will not affect the adequacy, quality, pressure or quantity of service to existing customers and will not otherwise impair the service or financial structure of the BPU. Fees may apply; contact your municipality for costs associated with wastewater main extensions.

SERVICES CONNECTION POLICY:

For new wastewater services, the customer is responsible for the wastewater service lateral from the main tap to the structure. The customer shall pay the New Service Charge, along with a fee for the plumbing inspection in accordance to the plumbing code.

New Service Charges (for Sanitary Sewer Taps):

One, Two and Three Family Dwellings.....	\$200.00
Four or more units.....	An Additional \$50/each unit
All Other Taps*.....	\$400.00

*\* Includes buildings having both residential and non-residential use, serviced by one (1) water line.*

The customer shall make provisions to properly excavate from the structure to the wastewater main in the street, furnish and install an approved wastewater (sewer) lateral, including main tap, backfill, and restoration of sidewalks and street paving in compliance with local government requirements.

All main taps must be performed by a plumber licensed in the City of Jamestown. Replacements of service laterals must be performed by a plumber licensed in the City of Jamestown and be inspected by the Plumbing Inspector.

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BILLING ADJUSTMENTS:

Wastewater billing adjustments will be limited to a 24-month period.

STATEMENT OF CUSTOMER RIGHTS:

Customers of the BPU Wastewater Division are entitled to view records pertaining to their wastewater accounts including meter readings, bills and payment history. Customers who believe that the BPU has made an error in the measurement of water supply, the billing of wastewater service, or the application of payments, and who are unable to resolve their issues through communications with BPU Customer Service, are entitled to a hearing. Customers may call 716-661-1660 to schedule a hearing.

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**Appendix A**

Sewage processing rates shown below are effective as of **January 1, 2021**:

<u>Type of Waste</u>	<u>Rate per gallon</u>
Chautauqua County Leachate	\$.00754
Other Leachate	\$.0250
Septic Sludge	\$.0724
Municipal Sludge	\$.0604
South/Center Sludge (piped)	\$.0531