

# Water/Sewer Rate Adjustment

City of Grand Ledge water/sewer residential customers will see an approximate \$20 increase\* in monthly bills. \*ESTIMATED FROM 4,000 GALLON USAGE

## WHY ARE THE RATES INCREASING?

*For the health, safety, and welfare of the community.*

Simply put, revenue from utility bills needs to be sufficient to cover the associated costs of **State of Michigan (EGLE) mandated** maintenance, operations, and improvements to ensure the safety of the water and sewer (w/s) systems.

There is no profit from rate adjustments; all revenue must be spent on the w/s systems. **Property taxes do not pay for our w/s systems.** We can't take revenue from water bills to pay for a new playground. Likewise, we do not use property tax revenue to pay for w/s system improvements.

## WHAT ARE MY RATES PAYING FOR?



### Operations & Maintenance Expenses

Providing W/S as a ready-to-use service to your home, including the proper maintenance to adequately maintain a well-functioning W/S system.



### Labor & Benefits

Wages and benefits for personnel performing W/S operations (eg. meter reading, water main repair, meter replacement, treatment of water and wastewater.).



### Loans, Bonds, Interest, Annual Payment

Additional financing that supports the long-term goals of maintaining proper treatment, distribution, and disposal of W/S. Revenue helps to fund W/S Capital Improvement projects.



### Asset Replacement & Rehabilitation

Investing in the replacement and improvement of W/S infrastructure based on necessity or mandated by EGLE (eg. replacing service lines, installing new meters, backflow prevention).



### Capital Improvement

Larger infrastructure improvement projects (eg. building Iron Removal Plant, WWTP Expansion, upgrading water and sewer lines under streets).

On July 1, 2024, the City of Grand Ledge Fiscal Year 2025 utility rate increase is effective. The increase was approved as part of the annual budget process.

## HOW ARE THESE RATES DETERMINED?

DETERMINE NEEDS OF WATER/SEWER SYSTEM

ESTABLISH BUDGET

SET RATES TO SUPPORT NEEDS OF SYSTEM

City Council members, as residents of the City of Grand Ledge, know it is never ideal to increase utility rates. However, it is the responsibility of elected officials to be proactive, budget responsibly, and ensure long-term, sustainable infrastructure for the health, safety, and welfare of the community, now and in the future.

The City adopts a budget each year to support the water/sewer systems in Grand Ledge. The budget must meet the needs of the system and in return the rates must support the budget.

On May 28, 2024, the Michigan Rural Water Association presented a rate analysis to ensure monthly utility rates are reasonable and support both short and long-term goals of our water and sewer infrastructure. This analysis is available online.

**New rates take effect July 1, 2024. Since utility bills are calculated from usage two months prior, customers will see these adjusted rates billed on September 1, 2024 bills. Flip to the other side to view a sample utility bill.**

# Frequently Asked Questions

## WHY THE WATER/SEWER SYSTEM UPDATES?

Generally speaking, they are necessary for sustainable infrastructure and most updates are required by EGLE. Expansions and improvements to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) are mandated by the State of Michigan. This project has an anticipated cost of \$52.4 - \$65 million. Our current WWTP capacity and ability is not sufficient to meet State of Michigan requirements. When the WWTP reaches limitations, sewage overflows into the Grand River. This happens in any community that exceeds WWTP capacity and is a violation of State of Michigan regulations.

## WILL IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR WATER SYSTEM CHANGE THE QUALITY?

The water provided to your home has been tested and treated according to EGLE standards and requirements. The new Iron Removal Plant is anticipated to be operational in 2025. Residents should notice an improvement to their water quality. However, older homes, apartments, and buildings in the City often have old internal plumbing that can easily affect the taste, look, and smell of the water.

## IS THE STATE OF MICHIGAN HELPING FUND THESE MANDATED UPDATES?

In 2024, the city sought financial assistance of \$17.2 million from the state legislature (Rep. Dievendorf, Rep. Witwer, Sen. Anthony) and Congress (Rep. Slotkin, Sen. Stabenow, Sen. Peters) to support the state-mandated improvements to the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and sewer systems (SS). This requested funding, paired with the city's plans to secure a \$35 million loan, would help cover the estimated \$65 million total WWTP and SS systems project. As of now, the city has been awarded \$959,752 from Congress.

Looking ahead to fiscal year 2025, the city has again requested \$15 million from both the state legislature (Rep. Dievendorf, Rep. Witwer, Sen. Anthony) and Congress (Rep. Slotkin, Sen. Stabenow, Sen. Peters) for the project. Balancing the need for improvements with the affordability concerns of residents and businesses is a priority for the city. Securing more funding from legislative bodies means less reliance on loans, ultimately reducing the financial burden on the city's utility users. State legislature members and Congressional representatives are receptive to constituent feedback. Contacting their offices provides an avenue for residents and businesses to voice their concerns and influence decision-making. As of now, the city has been awarded \$5 million from State Legislature.

# Sample Utility Bill

TYPICAL MONTHLY BILL - RESIDENTIAL 3/4 " METER

CITY OF GRAND LEDGE  
**WATER AND SEWER BILLING**  
 310 Greenwood St. Grand Ledge, MI 48837  
 (517) 627-2149



PROPERTY ADDRESS		310 GREENWOOD ST	
CYCLE	SECTION	ACCOUNT NO.	
RAD	08	1234567891	
FROM	TO		
07/01/2024	08/01/2024	30	

1119  
 PRESORTED  
 FIRST CLASS MAIL  
 U.S POSTAGE PAID  
 GRAND RAPIDS, MI  
 PERMIT #657

**RETURN THIS PORTION WITH PAYMENT**  
 CUSTOMER NAME & ADDRESS  
 LARRY LEDGE  
 310 GREENWOOD ST.

CODE	CURR READ	PREV READ	USAGE	AMOUNT
PB				\$0.00
			OLD	NEW
WA	9014A	24A	4000 \$ 23.60 + \$0.84	\$ 24.44
SE	9014A	24A	4000 \$ 38.12 + \$1.32	\$ 39.44
FS			\$ 31.83 + \$16.76	\$ 48.59 <i>WWTP</i>
FW			\$ 31.36 + \$1.08	\$ 32.44 <i>IRP</i>

CYCLE	SECTION	SEQUENCE NO.
RAD	08	08
ACCOUNT NO.		
1234567891		

DUE DATE	09/28/2024	<b>AMOUNT DUE</b> →	<b>\$144.91</b>
AFTER	09/28/2024	PAY THIS LATE AMOUNT	\$159.40

DUE DATE	<b>AMOUNT DUE</b>
09/28/2024	<b>\$144.91</b>
AFTER	PAY THIS LATE AMT. \$159.40
09/28/2024	



LARRY LEDGE  
 310 GREENWOOD ST.  
 GRAND LEDGE, MI 48837

2023 WATER QUALITY REPORT  
 AVAILABLE NOW  
 CITYOFGRANDLEDGE.COM/191