

ORDINANCE No. 5712

ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF TITLE 13, WATER AND SEWERS, OF THE WHEELING MUNICIPAL CODE (WATER AND SEWERS)

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees have reviewed the recommendation of Village staff regarding proposed changes to the water and sewer user charges and stormwater utility fees; and

WHEREAS, charges shall be made to the consumers of water, sewer, and stormwater services that are sufficient to pay the costs, maintenance, operations, and depreciation of the water, sewer, and stormwater systems and to pay the principal and interest of any bonds that may be issued for the construction, installation, repair, and improvement of the water, sewer, and stormwater systems; and

WHEREAS, the President and Board of Trustees deem it to be in the best interest of the Village to amend Title 13, Water and Sewers, of the Wheeling Municipal Code, to amend the schedule of fees for water consumed and sewer and stormwater system services used to ensure sufficient funding for the operation of the water, sewer, and stormwater systems;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WHEELING, COUNTIES OF COOK AND LAKE, STATE OF ILLINOIS:

SECTION A

Title 13, Water and Sewers, Section 13.04.200, of the Wheeling Municipal Code, is hereby amended to read as follows:

13.04.200 Schedule of fees for water consumed.

(a) For all water billed by the Village of Wheeling during January 2025, and thereafter, the consumer shall pay seven dollars and eighty-six cents (\$7.86) per one thousand (1,000) gallons.

(b) Each and every user, consumer, or property that is connected to the Village's water service shall pay a minimum bi-monthly Basic User Charge of twenty-three dollars and fifty-eight cents (\$23.58) for water billed in January 2025, and thereafter.

(c) Bulk water users may purchase water from the public works hydrant at a minimum charge of thirty-one dollars and forty-four cents (\$31.44), or to be billed in accordance with subsection (a) of this section if the amount of water purchased exceeds thirty-one dollars and forty-four cents (\$31.44).

SECTION B

Title 13, Water and Sewers, Section 13.08.080(d), of the Wheeling Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

(d) Basic User Charge. There shall be and there is established a Basic User Charge for the connection to, use of, and for service supplied by the sewer system of the Village. A Basic User Charge is established as follows: For bills during January 2025, and thereafter, one dollar and ninety-five cents (\$1.95) per one thousand gallons (1,000) of billed water usage;

A minimum charge, as follows:

For water billed during January 2025, and thereafter, five dollars and eighty-five cents (\$5.85) per bi-monthly billing period shall be applied to all users whose water consumption does not exceed three thousand (3,000) gallons per bi-monthly billing period. All non-metered residential users of the waste water system shall pay a minimum flat rate of thirty-one dollars and twenty cents (\$31.20). The flat rate will allow a maximum of sixteen thousand (16,000) gallons per bi-monthly billing period.

In the event use of the sewer system is determined by the Village to be in excess of sixteen thousand (16,000) gallons per bi-monthly billing period, the Village may require such flat rate user to install metering devices on the water supply or sewer system service line to measure the amount of service supplied.

SECTION C

Title 13, Water and Sewers, Section 13.14.060, of the Wheeling Municipal Code, is hereby amended to read as follows:

13.14.060 Stormwater Utility Fee.

A. Fee Imposed. A stormwater utility fee is hereby imposed on the owners of property in the village. The village board shall retain at all times the power and authority to set stormwater utility fee rates. The village shall review the adequacy of the stormwater utility fee rate annually in connection with the budget process. The rate may be revised to reflect any changes in local capital costs, operation, or maintenance, plus replacement codes.

B. Rates. The stormwater utility fee for all parcels in the village shall be based on the amount of impervious area on the parcel. The billing unit shall be based on the mean level of imperviousness on single family residential parcels. This billing unit is known as an equivalent runoff unit ("ERU") and a single ERU has been determined to be three thousand square feet of impervious surface in the village. All parcels in the village shall be assessed a minimum of one ERU.

1. Effective January 1, 2025, the stormwater utility fee rate per equivalent runoff unit ("ERU") per month shall be four dollars and twenty-five cents (\$4.25). The stormwater utility fee shall be a monthly fee.

2. Single Family Residential. Each parcel that contains a single family residential dwelling unit shall be assessed only one ERU per parcel.

3. Non-Single Family Residential. All non-single family residential parcels in the village shall be assessed a stormwater utility fee based on the measured number of ERU's on the parcel multiplied by the rate per ERU as set forth in subsection B.1. above, but not less than one ERU per parcel.

SECTION D

Those sections, paragraphs, and provisions of Title 13, Water and Sewers, of the Wheeling Municipal code which are not expressly amended or repealed by this ordinance are hereby re-enacted, and it is expressly declared to be the intention of this ordinance not to amend any portion

of the Wheeling Municipal Code other than that expressly amended in Sections A, B and C of this ordinance.

SECTION E

If any provision of this ordinance, or any application thereof to any person, property, or circumstance, shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect other provisions or applications which can be given effect without the invalid or unenforceable provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION F

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

Trustee Ruffatto moved, seconded by Trustee Papantos that Ordinance No. 5712 be adopted.

President Horcher	<u>Ag</u>		
Trustee Krueger	<u>Ag</u>	Trustee Ruffatto	<u>Ag</u>
Trustee Lang	<u>Ag</u>	Trustee Vito	<u>Ag</u>
Trustee Papantos	<u>Ag</u>	Trustee Vogel	<u>Ag</u>

Ordinance NO. 5712 **ADOPTED** this 16th day of December 2024, by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Wheeling, Illinois.

ATTEST:

Kathryn M Brady
Kathryn M. Brady, Village Clerk



Patrick Horcher
Patrick Horcher, Village President

APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

James V. Fardo
Village Attorney

PUBLISHED in pamphlet form this 17th day of December 2024, by order of the Corporate Authorities of the Village of Wheeling, Cook and Lake Counties, Illinois.

VILLAGE OF WHEELING

ORDINANCE NO. 5712

ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF TITLE 13, WATER AND SEWERS, OF THE WHEELING MUNICIPAL CODE

APPROVED BY THE CORPORATE AUTHORITIES OF THE VILLAGE OF
WHEELING THIS 16TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2024

Published in Pamphlet form this 17th day of December 2024, by order of
the Corporate Authorities of the Village of Wheeling, Cook, and Lake
Counties, Illinois.



Agenda Item Details

Meeting	Dec 16, 2024 - Village Board Regular Meeting Agenda
Category	13. New Business - All Listed Items for Discussion and Possible Action
Subject	B. Ordinance Amending Various Sections of Title 13, Water and Sewers, of the Wheeling Municipal Code
Access	Public
Type	Action
Fiscal Impact	Yes
Budgeted	Yes
Budget Source	Water and Sewer Fund and Stormwater Funds
Recommended Action	Motion to Approve
Goals	Financial Strength

Public Content

From: R. Brian Smith, Director of Finance
Subject: Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Fee Increase

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As discussed at the November 2, 2024 budget workshop, a 6.50% increase in water and sewer rates and a 25-cent increase in the stormwater fee are necessary to ensure that sufficient funds are available to operate and maintain the water, sanitary, and stormwater service systems. The attached ordinance, if approved, adjusts these rates beginning in January 2025.

MEMO

Water and Sewer Rates

In April 2024, Village staff presented an in-house water and sewer rate study to the Village Board to ensure adequate funding for future Water and Sewer Fund capital expenditures. After reviewing three available options for rate increases, the Board voted for a one-time 6.5% rate increase intended to produce enough revenue to pay for a more proactive watermain replacement program on a pay-as-you-go basis, without relying on long-term debt and still offsetting annual operating costs. The chosen option was also intended to continue to maintain fund balance at 25 percent of annual operating expenditures to ensure adequate cash reserves for emergencies. The study recommended that the Village continue to approve yearly increases to the water and sewer rates to offset rising costs, something the Board has done every year since 2004.

For 2025, staff recommends a rate increase of 60 cents (6.50%) per 1,000 gallons to provide sufficient funding to operate the water and sewer system now and in the future. The proposed rate increase will fund the projects included in the Capital Improvement Program and will maintain a minimum 25 percent fund balance reserve (assuming the Village realizes certain assumptions regarding water sales and future rate increases) through Fiscal Year 2029.

If approved, the rate increase will apply to all water billed beginning in January 2025 and continuing after that, with rates changing from \$9.21 per 1,000 gallons to \$9.81 per 1,000 gallons. The increase would cost the average resident (based on using 5,000 gallons per month) an additional \$6.00 per month, or \$36.00 annually. Listed below is a history of water and sewer rate increases since 2020.

Fiscal Year	Water	Sewer	Total	% Incr
2025 (proposed)	\$7.86	\$1.95	\$9.81	6.50%
2024	\$7.38	\$1.83	\$9.21	3.48%
2023	\$7.13	\$1.77	\$8.90	3.49%
2022	\$6.89	\$1.71	\$8.60	3.49%
2021	\$6.66	\$1.65	\$8.31	3.62%
2020	\$6.43	\$1.59	\$8.02	3.08%

Stormwater Fees

In January 2015, the Village Board reviewed a Stormwater Management Plan prepared by an engineering firm with input from Village staff and elected officials. The plan identified over \$48 million of stormwater improvement projects for current and future Village Boards to consider funding over a 30-year timeframe. In addition to flood improvement projects, the plan identified approximately \$800,000 of annual operating expenses that the Village must fund to maintain the stormwater system.

In 2016, the Village implemented a stormwater utility fee to generate the funds needed for stormwater-related operating and capital improvement costs. Staff recommended (and the Board approved) an initial fee of \$2.00 per Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU), with single-family homes paying for one ERU per month. Commercial, industrial, and multi-family developments pay a multiple of one ERU based on the amount of impervious area on their property.

When the initial fee was approved, staff recommended starting low to reduce the impact on those users with substantial amounts of impervious area on their property and suggested increasing the rate incrementally over time to address all the needs identified in the Stormwater Management Plan eventually. The following shows the Village's history of stormwater fee increases:

Fiscal Year	Stormwater Fee	\$ Increase
2025	\$4.25	.25
2024	\$4.00	.25
2023	\$3.75	.25
2022	\$3.50	.25
2021	\$3.25	.25
2020	\$3.00	.25
2019	\$2.75	.25
2018	\$2.50	.25
2017	\$2.25	.25
2016 (initial rate)	\$2.00	N/A

Staff recommends increasing the fee next year from \$4.00 to \$4.25 per ERU to provide additional revenue to fund projects. At \$4.25 per ERU, the Village can expect to raise \$1,373,574 in revenue to offset budgeted expenditures. The additional \$.25 would generate another \$109,574 for the Stormwater Fund annually.

The proposed FY 2025 budget includes expenditures for South Dunhurst storm sewer improvements, a new stormwater master plan, and a stormwater televising, mapping, and condition assessment. Funds are also budgeted for stormwater-related operating costs, consistent with a financial policy allowing the Village to use up to 25 percent of the revenue for that purpose.

Strategic Plan Theme:

Financial Strength

2025 WS AND STORMWATER ORD FINAL.pdf (27 KB)

Administrative Content

Executive Content

REGULAR meetings will be televised on channels 17 and 99. If you would like to attend a Village meeting but require an auxiliary aid such as a sign language interpreter, call 847-499-9085 AT LEAST 72 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. To view the full agenda packet, visit www.boarddocs.com/il/vowil/Board.nsf/Public