

PRESS RELEASE

On February 10, 2021, after several public hearings and much discussion, the Erie County Board of Commissioners approved rate increases to Erie County Sewer and Water customers, excluding Bay View sewer areas.

In December 2018, Erie County (the “County”) received an Administrative Order on Consent from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The USEPA mandated the County to address issues within the Sewer District. This includes leaking pipes, sewer overflows and upgrades to County wastewater treatment plants.

The County has received higher rates from water suppliers that have not been passed on to customers for several years. It is estimated the County has absorbed over \$2 million in these costs. However, the County is unable to do so any longer. The County has also deferred maintenance issues in the Water Districts during this time.

The average sewer bill increase is just over \$2.50 a month and an average water customer around \$4.00 per month. The first increase will commence on June 1, 2021. Rates will be formally reviewed by the Board on an annual basis through June 2025.

The County believes these rate increases are necessary to provide sustainable operations for sewer and water facilities. It also paves the way for increased efficiency and effectiveness in operations into the future.

We have delayed these increases as long as possible. The effective date of June has been chosen to give economic conditions time to improve as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.