

From the Desk of the Administrator

It's hard to believe that 2017 has come to a close already. It was a busy year and we are now preparing for an exciting 2018. I will be discussing utility rates from my desk this month. I will do it in two parts, water/sewer, then electric. Water/Sewer (W/S) will be in the 3rd year of Ordinance 2015-018 which was passed in October of 2015. The Ordinance calls for a 3% increase in W/S in years 2016, 2017 & 2018. Currently the 2017 rate is \$17.78 for 0 to 5000 gallons for water and \$27.21 for sewer for 0 to 5000 gallons. In 2018 the water will increase to \$18.31 for 0 to 5000 gallons and sewer will increase to \$28.03 for sewer for 0 to 5000 gallons. Also in Ordinance 2015-018 a monthly customer charge was implemented to help cover the cost of meters, distribution and collection systems, capital costs and plant maintenance. The customer charge does not vary with usage, it is a fixed monthly cost. It was set at \$5.00 per month per customer for water and \$7.50 per month per customer for sewer. The charges are implemented over the years of 2016-2018. Water was \$2.50 per month in 2016 and increased to \$4.00 in 2017 and will increase to the \$5.00 level this year. Sewer was \$3.50 in 2016 and increased to \$6.00 in 2017 and will increase to the \$7.50 level this year. If your W/S bill is 5000 or less per month in 2018, you will be seeing an increase of \$1.53 per month for water and an increase of \$2.32 for sewer for a total increase in W/S being \$3.85 per month. Council works hard to try to maintain the low rates, but at the same time make sure we can operate reliable top notch treatment facilities. I would like to give you a quick comparison of our rates versus the average rate of the rest of the State of Ohio. In 2014 the average water bill in Ohio was \$573 annually and sewer was \$626 annually. Now I am going to compare those figures (remember from 2014) to our figures from 2018 using 5000 gallons monthly. I will also include our customer charge in my figures. The 2014 average Ohio water bill was \$573 annually to the 2018 Jackson Center \$279.72 annually for water and for sewer the average 2014 Ohio sewer bill was \$626 annually to the 2018 Jackson Center \$426.36 annually for sewer. The figures I used for the State of Ohio were obtained from the Ohio EPA website epa.ohio.gov, 2014 water and sewer rates.

I would like to discuss our electric rates now with you and want to start out the electric rates are done differently. I will be talking strictly on the residential rates. In July of 2013 Village Council passed Ordinance 2013-008 adjusting rates and adopted going from monthly rate adjustments to doing a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) every 6 months. This allowed the Village to set the rate as we look at the forecast for the future of electric pricing. This gives the Village the ability to raise and lower rates to stay financially sound in the department. This also stabilized the rates for 6 months (or longer) at a time instead of adjusting the rate monthly. Currently the kWh (kilowatt hour, this is what the bills are figured on) charge is .11919 cents per kWh. Also included on your bill is a customer charge of \$4.25 a month. This charge is a fixed charge (does not change regardless of your usage) that we use for upkeep

of the distribution system, buying meters and capital projects. There is one other charge figured in your monthly bill and that is the kWh tax. This charge is .00465 cents per kWh used. If your household uses 1000 kWh in a month your bill will be figured by $1000 \text{ kWh} \times .11919 \text{ cents per kWh} = \119.19 . The \$4.25 customer charge and the kWh tax of $1000 \text{ kWh} \times .00465 \text{ per kWh} = \4.65 so your total for the month will be \$128.09 for your electric. Our rates have been very stable with the last PCA adjustment being in August of 2015. The Village reviews our rates and financial status every 5 years with a Cost of Service Study done by an outside consultant. The Village is currently having a Cost of Service Study being compiled to check our overall health of our electrical finances. Council will review the Cost of Service Study in January. The Cost of Service Study is nearly complete and I have done a quick review myself of the Study and on the residential rate looks like a 3.4% annual increase over for the next three years. That is my review at this time, the actual could be different. I will keep everyone updated in future articles. (Next month: Looking Back 2017 / Looking Forward 2018)