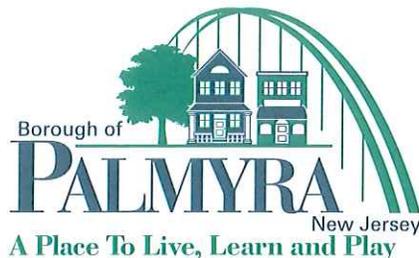


Michelle Arnold

Mayor
Borough Council
Bryan Norcross
President
Timothy Howard
Edward Kearney
Gina Tait
Shelby Tucker
Lewis Yetter



John J. Gural
Borough Administrator
Barbara Sheipe
Municipal Clerk
Donna Condo
Chief Financial Officer

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Michelle Arnold, ext.126
Mayor

March 18, 2016

Re: Sewer fees

Dear Residents and Business and Property Owners;

The Borough of Palmyra Sewer Plant was first constructed in 1922 with major upgrades occurring in 1955, 1974 and 1990.

More recently, after area residents expressed concerns about odors at the facility, valid concerns certainly, extensive discussions with the NJ Department of Environmental Protection began in 2012. As a result of those discussions the Borough signed an Administrative Consent Order with the NJ DEP (in November, 2013) that mandated extensive improvements to our waste water treatment facilities. In the spring of 2014 the Borough commenced that major improvement project, which is now just about complete. Funding for the project was provided by the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, an independent State Financing Authority that works closely with the NJ DEP, through no and low-interest loans. The final cost of the project was just over \$3,469,000.

These improvements will significantly improve and streamline processes at the sewer plant, reduce maintenance and operation costs, and decrease odors. The "new" facility has been designed with the latest technology and the life of the sewer plant has been extended by another 50 years.

Unfortunately however, as is the nature with projects of this magnitude, an increase in the sewer fee has become necessary. As a result our residential customers will see an increase of \$46 annually, up from the longstanding fee of \$350 per year (\$175 billed twice per year) to \$396 (\$198 twice per year). Senior deductions still apply however, with two programs available; a \$30 discount for seniors who meet lower income requirements and another \$20 discount for all seniors, 65 and over, as long as they live in the home.

While no one wants to increase fees it is very important to note that despite rising costs over the years the Borough had not increased sewer fees for nearly two decades! And even after this increase, the Borough of Palmyra's sewer fee is still average when compared to every other community in Burlington County.

In closing, we wish to thank you for taking the time to read this important information about sewer fees. If you should ever have any questions about your sewer fees however – or your property taxes in general -- please do not hesitate to contact our Tax Office at 856-829-6100 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. You should also always feel free to contact Mayor Michelle Arnold at 856-829-6100 ext. 126, or via email at marnold@boroughofpalmyra.com, or Administrator John Gural at ext. 125 or jgural@boroughofpalmyra.com. Once again, thank you very much for your time.