

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 175 (SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL)
IMPLEMENTING REVISED SEWER FEES AND PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

WHEREAS, the Township desires to revise sewer rates in accordance with the financial requirements of the Township's Sewer Utility; and

WHEREAS, in consideration thereof, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Bridgewater desire to amend Chapter 175, titled Sewers and Sewage Disposal; and

BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater in the County of Somerset and State of New Jersey that Chapter 175 of the Municipal Code of the Township of Bridgewater, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey are amended pursuant to the provisions hereof (additions are noted **thusly** and deletions are noted ~~thusly~~):

Section I

Chapter 175-1 is hereby amended as follows:

A. For every direct **or indirect** connection to the sanitary sewerage system of the Township or to any part thereof, the following capacity-rate trunk-connection charges are established at the following rates:

(1) Residential user: ~~\$4,539~~ **\$4,766** for each single-family dwelling or unit.

(2) All other users: ~~\$4,539~~ **\$4,766** for each 300 gallons per day as determined by the Township on the basis of certain factors, including but not limited to the factors contained in N.J.S.A. 40:14A-8, N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3, the data and information made available to the Township, and the results of its investigation and on studies of meter readings.

(3) Connection Fee Biennial Review. The connection fee shall be reviewed every even-numbered year and shall be subject to upward revision in accordance with the factors contained in N.J.S.A. 40:14A-8, N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3, the data and information made available to the Township, and the results of its investigation and on studies of meter readings.

Section II

Chapter 175-2 is hereby amended as follows:

A. For every direct or indirect connection to the sanitary sewerage system of the Township or to any part thereof, the following direct trunk tap-in charges are established at the following rates:

(1) Residential user: ~~\$4,539~~ **\$4,766** for each single-family dwelling or unit.

(2) All other users: ~~\$4,539~~ **\$4,766** for each 300 gallons per day as determined by the Township on the basis of certain factors, including but not limited to the factors contained

in N.J.S.A. 40:14A-8, N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3, the data and information made available to the Township, and the results of its investigation and on studies of meter readings.

(3) Connection Fee Biennial Review. The connection fee shall be reviewed every even-numbered year and shall be subject to upward revision in accordance with the factors contained in N.J.S.A. 40:14A-8, N.J.A.C. 7:14A-23.3, the data and information made available to the Township, and the results of its investigation and on studies of meter readings.

Section III

Chapter 175-3 is hereby amended as follows:

A. Every user connected, directly or indirectly, to the sanitary sewerage system of the Township or to any part thereof shall pay, as hereinafter specified, to the Treasurer of the Township an annual sewer use charge hereby established, at the rates and in the manner hereinbelow specified, effective January 1, 2022.

B. The rate and charge per unit user and the rate charge per metered volume user effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, shall be as follows:

(1) Unit charges for unmetered church, nonprofit civil associations and residential users:

(a) Four hundred and eighty-four (\$484) dollars per year for each unit or major fraction of a unit over one unit where the user is either serviced directly by the Township with treatment at Somerset-Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority or the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority, which said sum shall include the costs of treatment, operation, and maintenance.

(b) Where the user is served by the Borough of Somerville, Township of Green Brook, Borough of Bound Brook or Borough of Raritan, the user shall be charged as billed directly by the municipality that serves the user according to its existing system of user charges or by the designated operator of that municipality's sewer system.

(2) Unit charges for unmetered commercial, institutional, industrial and nonresidential users: \$484 per year for each unit or major fraction of a unit over one unit, regardless of where the user is serviced, based upon 3,000 square feet of gross building area calculated per the Township of Bridgewater Municipal Land Use Code per basic unit (some uses have two minimum billing units per business).

(3) Volume charge for metered users: \$4,411.00 per year for each million gallons per year, metered, prorated on the basis of \$441.10 for each major fraction of 100,000 gallons per year.

C. B. The rate and charge per unit user and the rate charge per metered volume user effective ~~January 1, 2022~~, **January 1, 2025**, shall be as follows:

(1) Unit charges for unmetered church, nonprofit civil associations and residential users:

(a) ~~Four hundred and seventy two dollars~~ **Four hundred and ninety-six (\$496)** dollars per year for each unit or major fraction of a unit over one unit where the user is either serviced directly by the Township with treatment at Somerset-Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority or the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority, which said sum shall include the costs of treatment, operation and maintenance.

(b) **Where the user is served by the Borough of Somerville, Township of Green Brook, Borough of Bound Brook or Borough of Raritan, the user shall be charged as billed directly by the municipality that serves the user according to its existing system of user charges or by the designated operator of that municipality's sewer system.**

(2) Unit charges for unmetered commercial, institutional, industrial and nonresidential users: ~~\$472~~ **\$496** per year for each unit or major fraction of a unit over one unit, regardless of where the user is serviced, based upon 3,000 square feet of gross building area calculated per the Township of Bridgewater Municipal Land Use Code per basic unit (some uses have two minimum billing units per business).

(3) Volume charge for metered users: ~~\$4,311~~ **\$4,521.00** per year for each million gallons per year, metered, prorated on the basis of ~~\$431.05~~ **\$452.06** for each major fraction of 100,000 gallons per year.

(D) Whenever treatment fees or costs charged to the Township are increased by the Somerset-Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority or the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority, the fees and charges herein shall be increased by the same percentage as said increase. The increase shall begin on January 1 of the year thereafter.

Section IV

Chapter 175-7 is hereby amended as follows:

A. ~~Effective January 1, 2023, the annual sewer use charges hereby established shall be payable as follows: one half of the annual sewer use charge on the first business day of March, and one-half of the annual sewer use charge on the first business day in September, as provided on the bill form to be prepared by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township. Any user shall have the option to pay their sewer use charge in one lump sum. Any use charge remaining unpaid after the time when the same shall have been due and payable shall be subject to an interest charge in the same manner as past due real property taxes in the Township~~ **Effective January 1, 2024 through**

December 31, 2024, the annual sewer use charges hereby established shall be payable as follows: one-half of the annual sewer use charge on the first business day of August, and one-half of the annual sewer use charge on the first business day in October, as provided on the bill form to be prepared by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township. Any user shall have the option to pay their sewer use charge in one lump sum. Any use charge remaining unpaid after the time when the same shall have been due and payable shall be subject to an interest charge in the same manner as past-due real property taxes in the Township.

B. Effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, the annual sewer use charges hereby established shall be payable as follows: one-half of the annual sewer use charge on the first business day of September, and one-half of the annual sewer use charge on the first business day of December, as provided on the bill form to be prepared by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township. Any user shall have the option to pay their sewer use charge in one lump sum. Any use charge remaining unpaid after the time when the same shall have been due and payable shall be subject to an interest charge in the same manner as past-due real property taxes in the Township. Effective January 1, 2025, the annual sewer use charges hereby established shall be payable as follows: one-half of the annual sewer use charge on the first business day of March, and one-half of the annual sewer use charge on the first business day in September, as provided on the bill form to be prepared by the Chief Financial Officer of the Township. Any user shall have the option to pay their sewer use charge in one lump sum. Any use charge remaining unpaid after the time when the same shall have been due and payable shall be subject to an interest charge in the same manner as past-due real property taxes in the Township.

C. The tax collector shall have the authority to calculate and send out estimated bills in advance of regularly scheduled sewer bills.

D. Biennial Review. The rates and charges provided for in this section shall be reviewed every even-numbered year for conformity with the State and federal regulations and guidelines. The Chief Financial Officer, with input from the Sewer Utility Director of the Township, shall review the annual revenues generated by the rates and charges, compared with the projected costs of operation, maintenance and replacement, and issue a report with recommendations for rate and charge revisions to reflect sufficient annual revenues to offset actual annual operation and maintenance costs.

Section V

All ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section VI

If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to this section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, or provision and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

Section VII

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication in the manner required by New Jersey general law but, in no event, less than 20 days after its final passage by the Township Council and approval by the Mayor, where such approval is required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:69A-181(b).

Adopted: June 6, 2024

Effective: June 26, 2024