



## 2012 Water / Sewer Costs

In the previous newsletter, I informed you that the MNDNR strongly suggested an increase in Empire's water fees. Empire has been working with the MNDNR to come up with a fee schedule that the MNDNR would approve but without such a drastic change, and we have. It is not nearly as high as what the DNR would like but they did approve it.

**Ordinance 510-D Public Utility Ordinance** has been adopted . This Ordinance has our 2012 pricing for water and sewer. Sewer rates have not changed.

### Section 2. B. Water Operating Expenditures – User Fees

Water user fees include a quarterly minimum charge or base rate of \$36.00 per REU, which includes the first 6000 gallons of metered water usage. Quarterly fees for water usage include the base rate plus the following additional rates:

7000-12,000 gallons are an additional \$1.80/1000 gallons over 6000 gallons,  
13,000-24,000 gallons are an additional \$2.25/1000 gallons over 12,000 gallons,  
Over 24,000 gallons are an additional \$2.80/1000 gallons over 24,000 gallons.

### Section 3. B. Sanitary Sewer Operating Expenditures – User Fees

Sanitary sewer user fees include a quarterly minimum charge or base rate of \$36.00 per REU plus a sewer usage rate of \$1.05 per 1000 gallons after the first 6000 gallons, based upon the average metered water consumption rate for the previous months of October, November, December, January, February, and March. Users without a service account which includes prior winter months for averaging shall pay sanitary sewer user fees based upon actual water consumption.

**Water Rate Comparison Chart**

To the right is a rate comparison chart for water only from 2011 costs compared to the new rates in 2012. As you can see, the more water you use the more the increase. Please conserve.

Gallons	2011	2012
1,000 - 6,000	\$36.00	\$36.00
10,000	\$43.20	\$43.20
15,000	\$52.20	\$53.55
20,000	\$61.20	\$64.80
25,000	\$70.20	\$76.60
30,000	\$79.20	\$90.60
40,000	\$97.20	\$118.60
45,000	\$111.20	\$132.60
50,000	\$125.20	\$146.60

