



Hubert E. Hermanek
Mayor

Kathy Ranieri
Village Clerk

August 17, 2017

Trustees:
Jason A. Bianco
Deborah Czajka
H. Bob Demopoulos
Fernando Flores
Joseph Mengoni
Theresa Sarro

As elected officials, there are times when the right decision is not always the easy or popular one.

On August 14th, the Village Board voted to pass a water rate increase effective with the September 1st water bills. The decision to raise water rates was difficult, but necessary for our financial well-being. Even with this rate increase, the Village's water rate structure remains competitive with surrounding communities.

As you may know, the Village uses Lake Michigan water supplied by the City of Chicago and purchases it from the Brookfield-North Riverside Water Commission. The Commission is responsible for delivering the water from Chicago to the Village's border. Both the City of Chicago and the Brookfield-North Riverside Water Commission raised their water rates on June 1, 2017.

The City of Chicago is using the additional revenues solely for Chicago's benefit. Per an article in the Chicago Tribune, Rahm Emanuel stated: "Nearly half the cost of the water and the street repair will be (borne) by the suburban people who rely on the system. Chicago residents themselves won't be bearing that cost."

The Brookfield-North Riverside Water Commission's rate increase will fund a \$17 million water main project beginning in 2017. A new 36" water main is being installed to supplement the current 79-year-old supply line that carries our water from the lake. This new pipe will serve as a reliable backup if the existing water main fails or needs to be shut down for repairs.

In addition to the water rate increase, the Village Board also modified the Water Operations Fee to better reflect the impact a service line has on the infrastructure of the entire system. Going forward, the Water Operations Fee will be based on meter size. **The majority of customers will NOT see a fee increase in this area and qualifying seniors will see a reduction.** Customers with a 1" meter or larger will bear a bigger share of the fee increase as they place greater demand on the water infrastructure system. This fee continues to help offset the costs of maintaining and improving our infrastructure so we can continue to provide high quality water service our residents and businesses have grown to expect.

We understand that rate increases are difficult and we want to assure you that this decision was not entered into lightly. In order to provide a healthy water and sewer system in our community, it is important that we set our rates at sufficient levels to cover all operating costs.

Please review the enclosed New Water Rate Structure flyer for additional information. If you have further questions, please call Guy Belmonte at (708) 447-4211.

Regards,

Mayor Hermanek & the Board of Trustees

New Water Rate Structure

Effective: 9/1/17 Billing Cycle

Water Rate

This is calculated based on actual water consumption used during the billing cycle. There is a minimum usage of 4,000 gallons for residential and 7,500 gallons for non-residential customers.

	Rate Per 1,000 Gallons	Minimum Billed Amount
Residential	\$ 11.60	\$ 46.40
Commercial	17.30	129.75
Multi-Family	17.30	129.75

Water Operations Fee

This is a flat fee per billing cycle and goes towards maintaining and improving the Village's water and combined sewer infrastructure systems.

Meter Size	Billing Fee
Senior Discount*	\$ 10.00
3/4"	30.00
5/8"	30.00
1"	40.00
1 1/2"	50.00
2"	60.00
3"	70.00
4"	85.00
6"	130.00

*Senior eligibility requirements:

1. Must be 65 years of age or older
2. Property must be the applicant's primary residence
3. Completion and approval of the Senior Discount Application