

§ 191-15. Use charge.

The following annual charges for use of the sewerage system of the Town of Coventry are hereby established, to be paid by every person, firm or corporation whose particular sewer enters into said system.

- A. The cost of operation and maintenance of the complete sewer system shall be financed solely from sewer customer charges.
- B. A sewer charge shall be levied to each user upon connection to the public sewage system. The service charge shall be based upon the quantity of water used at the premises of the user as measured by the water meter in use thereat, except as otherwise hereinafter provided.
- C. For residential and nonresidential users, the rates and charges for each billing period shall be determined by each user's annual water use, or design flow (GPD), for that period. The usage rates, charges and fees shall be established from time to time by Town Council resolution. Assessments shall be established by ordinance only, per § 191-14. The Council may establish a minimum amount per billing period which all users must pay for which a maximum contribution of wastewater is allowed. The minimum amount per billing period shall be equal to 50% of the design flow (GPD) for that period multiplied by the current rate charges when meter readings from Kent County Water Authority are not available. When meter readings become available, the usage bill for the following period will be adjusted in accordance with Subsection D.
- D. Property supplied with water service from the Kent County Water Authority shall be subject to wastewater usage charges based upon 80% of the water meter reading as determined by the Kent County Water Authority. Property without service from Kent County Water Authority shall be subject to usage charges of 100% of the design flow (GPD) unless a Town-approved meter is installed and readings are provided to, and verified by, the Town. Meter verification is subject to a minimum charge established by the Town and the Director of Public Works.
- E. Nonresidential users exceeding the limits set forth herein for BOD and total suspended solids, total nitrogen and total phosphorus concentrations shall be surcharged with rates established by the West Warwick Sewer Commission.
- F. In the event a lot, parcel of land, building or premises discharging sanitary sewage or other liquids into the Town sewage system either directly or indirectly, is not a user of water in the whole supplied by public or private water utility, then, in each such case the consumption shall be set at 100% of the design flow unless a Town-approved meter is installed and readings are provided to, and verified by, the Town. Meter verification is subject to a minimum charge established by the Town and the Director of Public Works. The Town must be notified if and when a property has water service from a well.

- G. In the event two or more lots, parcels of real estate residences, dwelling units or buildings discharging sanitary sewage water or other liquids into the sanitary sewage system of the Town are users of water and the quantity of water is measured by a single water meter, then, in each case for billing purposes, the minimum charge for the sewer rates and charges shall be multiplied by the number of lots, parcels or real estate, residences, dwelling units, or buildings served through the single water meter.
- H. Charges for the sewage disposal service shall be billed and collected by the Town.
- I. Outside meters. In the event water is used for purposes which do not enter the Town sewage system, including but not limited to water used in pools and sprinkler systems, the owner of such premises may, at his own expense, install such meter as shall be approved by the Town and the Director of Public Works for the measurement of water so used in order that a proper allowance may be made, and the sewage service charge reduced accordingly. The Town and the Director of Public Works may set policies and procedures for documentation of outside water usage.
- J. The rates and charges may be billed to the tenant or tenants occupying the property serviced, but such billing shall in no way relieve the owner or owners from liability in the event payment is not made as herein required. The owners of property served which are occupied by tenants shall have the right to examine the collection records of the Town for the purpose of determining whether such rates and charges have been paid by such tenants, provided that such examination shall be made at the office in which the records are kept and during the regular business hours of such office.
- K. Each charge or service fee levied pursuant to this chapter is hereby made a lien upon the corresponding lot, land or premises served by the connection to the sanitary sewage system of the Town. Failure to pay said charge or service fee within the prescribed period of time, such charge or fee shall then be collected as other Town taxes are collected. The official record of the Town shall constitute notice of penalty and of said lien as herein provided.
- L. All money collected under the provisions of the chapter shall be deposited in a sewage enterprise fund and expenditures from which are to be made only for maintenance, operation, administration, debt service and other related sewage system expenses.
- M. The Town, in addition to the other remedies provided by this chapter, may institute legal proceedings to collect overdue sewer service charges. Penalties may be added to the original sewer bill for late payment which penalties shall be set by Town Council resolution.