

**St. Clair Township
Sewer Department**

107 Service Street
Swansea, IL 62226
Phone: 618-233-3437
Fax: 618-233-0338

www.stclairtownship.com

EXPLANATION OF WHY EVERY HOMEOWNER IN THE TOWNSHIP RECEIVES A MINIMUM BI-MONTHLY BILL, REGARDLESS OF WATER USAGE, IF LINE IS NOT CAPPED OFF AT MAIN TRUNK:

The minimum bill that every homeowner is charged in the Township is for 0-4000 gallons at a rate of \$22.00 bi-monthly.

- *If you have a Cubic Feet meter that reads in CCF (100 cubic feet), each unit/read on your bill = 750 gallons.
- *If you have a Cubic Feet meter that reads in DCF (10 cubic feet), each unit/read on your bill = 75 gallons.
- *If you have a Cubic Gallon meter (CGL), each unit/read on your bill = 100 gallons.

Excess usage over 4000 gallons is billed at \$5.07 per 1000 gallons. EPA guidelines require us to bill based on water usage reads we receive from Illinois American Water Company.

70-80% of our sewer operation is infrastructure. The actual cost to treat the water is minimal, but we still have to maintain our office and other buildings at our sewer plant, over 100 miles of underground pipe, manholes, lift stations, and the wastewater treatment plant. We're also required to make loan payments for construction, heat/cool our buildings, and pay our employees to run the operation and maintain the infrastructure. This is the main cost of our sewer operation and the reason that each homeowner in the Township is billed a minimum bill of \$22.00 bi-monthly for the ability to have instant availability to use the sewer lines anytime they want.

If a homeowner tries to sell their property without a functioning sewer line in place, chances are it won't sell, but paying the minimum sewer bill assures that the sewer lines are being maintained and are ready for use at any time, allowing the home to be sold at any time, or allowing a new tenant to move in immediately. If you prefer not to have a functioning sewer line to avoid the minimum bi-monthly fee, you must arrange for the line to be capped off at the main sewer line (trunk) by a licensed plumber/contractor. Once it has been capped off, and before it is re-buried, you must call the Township to have an inspection performed. There is a \$50.00 inspection fee. This information can be found on our website at www.stclairtownship.com by clicking on the Sewer Department link, followed by the link at the bottom of the page named "[Sewer Minimum Usage Resolution 6-25-2013](#)".

State Statute allows St. Clair Township to deem the owner of the property responsible for all sewer bills, regardless of whether they have/had a tenant, until the property is no longer recorded in their name with the county courts. You can check your service address by going to <http://www.co-st-clair.il.us/Pages/parcel.aspx>. Properties in foreclosure are billed until the owner's name has been removed from the title/deed with the courthouse.

Sewer bills are generated in the even months (Feb/Apr/June/Aug/Oct/Dec) and are due in the odd months (Jan/Mar/May/July/Sep/Nov) always on the 15th. If the 15th falls on a weekend, or a holiday in which our office observes, the bill due date will be the following business day. St. Clair Township sewer bills are yellow postcards exactly ¼ the size of a standard piece of copy paper. They are typically mailed out by the 25th of every even-numbered month, although our Township Ordinance states bills will be issued on or by the first day of the month succeeding the period for which the service was rendered.