

Notice of Public Hearing Caribou Utilities District Proposed Sewer Rate Increase

Pursuant to Section 1252 of Title 38 MRSA, notice is hereby given of a proposed 2% increase in sewer rates effective October 4, 2021.

The Caribou Utilities District proposes to raise an additional \$15,000 from this rate increase yearly. This additional revenue is necessary to cover increased expenses and deferred maintenance, as well as improving District infrastructure. As facilities age and maintenance increases, additional costs are incurred. More stringent regulations require more treatment, testing, and reporting.

Current residential, commercial and governmental rates are \$250 per year. All current rates have a consumption component; for monthly usage above 300 cubic feet there is a charge of \$2.50 per 100 cubic feet. The consumption component was established in 2001.

The proposed residential, commercial and governmental rates are \$255 per year. All new rates will have a consumption component; for monthly usage above 300 cubic feet there will be a charge of \$2.55 per 100 cubic feet. The last sewer rate increase was in October 2018.

Additionally, a base rate increase of \$5 per year is proposed with subsequent \$5 per year rate increases added to the base rate for 5 years. The consumption component will be increased \$0.50 per 100 cubic feet of water usage over the allowance annually as well. Sewer bills will continue to be based upon water usage and billed concurrently with water bills, with the exception of non-water customers. With the proposed rate increase, Caribou Utilities District rates will remain among the lowest sewer utility rates in Maine.

Therefore:

Current rate - \$250.00/yr + \$2.50/100 cubic feet over the monthly minimum of 300 cubic feet
10/4/21 rate - \$255.00/yr + \$2.55/100 cubic feet over the monthly minimum of 300 cubic feet
10/3/22 rate - \$260.00/yr + \$2.60/100 cubic feet over the monthly minimum of 300 cubic feet
10/2/23 rate - \$265.00/yr + \$2.65/100 cubic feet over the monthly minimum of 300 cubic feet
10/7/24 rate - \$270.00/yr + \$2.70/100 cubic feet over the monthly minimum of 300 cubic feet
10/6/25 rate - \$275.00/yr + \$2.75/100 cubic feet over the monthly minimum of 300 cubic feet

A public hearing will be held at 7:30 am at the Caribou Wellness Center at 55 Bennett Drive in Caribou ME on June 17, 2021 to discuss the proposed rate increase. A regular monthly District meeting will be held afterwards. If you have any questions, please call the Caribou Utilities District at 207-496-0911.