

VILLAGE OF WHITING

3600 Water Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481

(715) 341-2742

www.villageofwhiting.org

OFFICE HOURS: M-F 9:00-3:30

SUMMER 2024



Village of Whiting Water Utility Rate Case

In the Spring 2022 Newsletter, our previous president updated us on the following, which I will try to remind us of, and then give the current status.

At the February 8, 2022 Whiting Village Board meeting, the Board passed a resolution requesting the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) authorize a change in the location of Whiting property taxpayer's Public Fire Protection (PFP) charge. After the change, the PFP charge will appear on each customer's quarterly utility bill (Direct Charge). At the same time, the PFP charges would be removed from the Municipal Tax Levy (Municipal Charge). Removing the PFP charge from the tax levy is expected to give the Village more fiscal management flexibility in the future. Also, the new way will bring about greater equity in paying for Public Fire Protection in the Village. Currently, any properties in our community that are exempt from paying property taxes also do not pay for PFP. After the new method is implemented, ALL metered properties in Whiting will pay the PFP charge, since it will be part of the quarterly water/sewer bill.

The PFP charge is required by state law and is regulated by the PSC. We could actually call it a "public fire protection water charge" since it has nothing to do with operating a fire department. This money goes solely to the Whiting Water Utility and ensures our water system is equipped with the pumps, storage facilities, water mains, and hydrants to deliver the significant water volume and pressure needed during firefighting and still supply daily water needs to our customers.

The PSC requires a rate case when implementing a PFP change. In the rate case, the PSC investigates, regulates, and determines rates that the water utility must charge for their services to ensure the charges are just while also ensuring the financial stability of the utility as a whole, to provide adequate, safe, and reliable service to their customers.

Our last rate case was done in 2013 (we all know what inflation has done since then) and we are also currently in need of major upgrades and improvements to our water treatment facility. Much of the equipment we utilize to treat and provide safe drinking water to our customers is over 30 years old. Although our utility staff has done an excellent job maintaining this equipment throughout the years, all equipment has an anticipated service life – which we are exceeding.

As such, the PSC has ordered base water rates to be increased in two phases along with the application of the PFP charge. Added together, it is estimated that the average home will see an increase of \$50 - \$100 on their quarterly bill, consisting of a small increase in the water rate, and the PFP line item. When the PSC issues their final order, we will have 90 days to implement phase one of the new rates, so it is likely they will become effective in October and that you will see them on your December 31st bill. The second phase will be implemented after the completion of the water treatment facility improvements in approximately one year. If you need assistance, please contact the Village Office to discuss going to monthly payments, direct payments, electronic payments, etc. if it would help you with your budget.

Dean Curtis, President, Village of Whiting

Utility bill payment options

Due to the upcoming increase to your utility payments, **we want to stress that there is an option for you to pay your water bills monthly using the direct pay option.** The payment options are explained below:

- Direct pay option can be monthly or quarterly. This is an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account. Please stop in the office with a voided check to set this option up.
- Cash or personal check. Mail or drop off at the office. An after hours drop box is available to the right of the main doors.
- Credit card or e-check payment using Gov Pay. Visit www.villageofwhiting.org and use the GovPayNet button near bottom of the homepage. There is a 2.95% service fee for credit cards and a flat \$2.95 fee when using an e-check.

Holiday and other reminders:

- **Garbage pick-up** will be SATURDAY July 6th instead of the 5th and SATURDAY September 7th instead of the 6th.
- The **Compost Site** hours will not be affected the week of July 1-6. It will be open Monday July 1, Wednesday July 3 and Saturday July 6.
- The **Compost site** will be **closed on Labor Day**, Monday September 2th.
- Second Installment Real Estate Taxes are due July 31, 2024. Please pay taxes at the Portage County Courthouse or online through the Portage County website.
- Village offices are closed on July 4 and September 2 for Independence Day and Labor Day.
- August 13 is the Partisan Primary election. Polls are open at the village hall from 7 am– 8 pm.

Village Contacts

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IN CASE OF UTILITY EMERGENCY OUTSIDE OF OFFICE HOURS PLEASE CALL 715-572-9434

Full directory available online at www.villageofwhiting.org