

*For Immediate Release – September 16, 2024*  
**Town of St. Paul Implements New Water and Wastewater Rates Following  
Comprehensive Study**

The Town of St. Paul has recently completed an in-depth Water and Wastewater Rate Study to ensure the long-term sustainability of our water and wastewater infrastructure. Based on the findings of this study, the Town has implemented several changes to utility rates, including an increase in fixed charges for water and wastewater services, as well as the introduction of new capital replacement charges for both utilities.

### **Purpose of the Water Rate Study**

The Water Rate Study was undertaken to evaluate the current and future costs of operating, maintaining, and upgrading the Town's critical water and wastewater utilities. The utility should be operating as a cost recovery service operationally. The Town of St. Paul is committed to delivering high-quality, reliable utility services to our residents, and this study allowed us to thoroughly assess the financial needs associated with operating and maintaining these essential services over the long term.

### **Key Changes to Utility Rates**

As a result of the study, the following changes will take effect:

- **Increase in Fixed Charges:** Both water and wastewater services will see increases in their fixed charges. This adjustment reflects the true costs of operating, maintaining, and upgrading our water and wastewater systems to ensure continued reliability for our community.
- **Introduction of Capital Replacement Charges:** To begin saving for future infrastructure needs, the Town will be adding a **Water Capital Replacement Charge** and a **Sewer Capital Replacement Charge**. These charges will be directed toward building a reserve fund specifically designated for major future capital projects, such as the replacement of aging pipes, treatment facilities, and other critical components.

### **Why Are These Changes Necessary?**

Over time, the costs of operating, maintaining, and upgrading water and wastewater infrastructure have grown due to factors such as aging systems, regulatory requirements, and inflationary pressures. Without proactive measures, the Town risks facing significant

financial challenges in the future, including unexpected breakdowns, service interruptions, or costly emergency repairs.

The increased fixed charges and capital replacement charges allow the Town to plan ahead by ensuring that adequate funds are available for future capital projects. This proactive approach helps spread costs evenly over time, reducing the need for sudden rate increases in the future and ensuring that our systems can meet the needs of both current and future generations of St. Paul residents.

### **Transparent and Fair Rate Structure**

The new rate structure was carefully designed to balance affordability for residents and the need for long-term investment in infrastructure. By acting now, we can secure the future of our water and wastewater services while continuing to provide high-quality, reliable service to our community.

### **Public Engagement and Next Steps**

We understand that any change in rates can have an impact on our residents. We encourage community members to visit our website for a full breakdown of the new rates.

In January 2025, the Town will move to monthly utility billing. When this happens, the charges will be reduced by half, so as to be a monthly number, instead of a bi-monthly number. Except for the Mailed Billing Charge (\$2.00), which will remain a per bill charge. Consumption charges will also be based on 1 month of usage.

**Changes to the Water and Wastewater charges are as follows:**

	Bi- Monthly Bill	Bi- Monthly Bill	Monthly Bill
Charge	Jan - June 2024	July - Dec 2024	Starting Jan. 2025
Fixed Water Charge	\$28.76	\$34.00	\$17.00
Water Capital Replacement	N/A	\$14.00	\$7.00
Water Consumption Rate	\$1.60/ Cubic Meter	\$1.31/ Cubic Meter	\$1.31/ Cubic Meter
Fixed Sewer Service Charge	\$26.76	\$72.20	\$36.10
Sewer Capital Replacement	N/A	\$7.00	\$3.50
Sewer Consumption Rate	\$1.20/ Cubic Meter	\$1.00/ Cubic Meter	\$1.00/ Cubic Meter

**Mailed Bill Charge remains at \$2.00 per bill. No change.**

*The Town of St. Paul is committed to ensuring the long-term sustainability of our essential services while maintaining transparency and fairness in our decision-making process.*