



## Notice of Proposed Sewer Rate Increase

**To:** Washburn Residents & Property Owners

**From:** Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors

**Date:** July 17, 2024

There is a need to increase sewer fees in Washburn to better fund current operations and financially prepare for the future. Fees have remained unchanged for 16 years, with no adjustments made since 2008. The current sewer rate in Washburn is \$21 per month. Without a rate increase, expenses are expected to exceed revenue by approximately \$22,000 in FY25.

**Cost breakdown of current sewer updates:**

The Board of Supervisors prioritized \$735,000 of Black Hawk County's federal ARPA funds to address the needs of the Washburn sanitary sewer system and avoid placing a financial burden on Washburn residents. \$440,000 of those funds were used to replace pump control panels. Additionally, the Board will hire an engineering firm to evaluate and prioritize other needed improvements to the system. Without the approved ARPA funds assigned to these projects, the sewer fees for FY25 are estimated at \$55 per month.

**The Board of Supervisors plans to vote on the following rate increases:**

- \$6/month per household effective 11/2024 resulting in a rate of \$27 per month.
- \$4/month per household increase effective 11/2025 resulting in a rate of \$31 per month.

**Services provided through sewer fees include:**

- 24/7 routine operations, maintenance of the system, groundskeeping, & utilities.
- Preventative pump maintenance; equipment and pump repairs.
- Monitoring and reporting on daily flow and lagoon levels as required by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

**Invitation to attend Board of Supervisors Meeting**

The Washburn Sewer Rates will be on the Board agenda for discussion every Tuesday between July 16 and August 6. Meetings begin at 9 a.m. at the Black Hawk County Courthouse, 316 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Waterloo. Residents may also attend by Zoom: [tinyurl.com/yckk3ukw](https://tinyurl.com/yckk3ukw).

The Board plans to vote on the proposed rate increases at the August 6 meeting.

**For more information:**

For more information please review the FAQ document on the BHC website by going to [blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov/820/Washburn-Services](https://blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov/820/Washburn-Services) or scanning the QR code. Questions may also be directed to the BHC Board of Supervisors at [supervisors@blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov](mailto:supervisors@blackhawkcounty.iowa.gov) or by calling (319) 833-3072.

Scan code for  
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