



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

JOHN DELUCA
Director

May 28, 2020

Honorable President and Members of the City Council:

The tables below outline the proposed water and sewer volumetric rates for the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21). The FY21 rate proposal represents the following changes to the current rates:

1. A 7.5% increase in water volumetric charges;
2. A 2.5% increase in sewer volumetric charges; and
3. No change to existing base charges for both water and sewer.

The following tables list the new rates as well as the impact to average rate payers. The residential 'discount tier' for the first 8 units of usage [8 units x 748 gallons per unit = 5,984 gallons] remains in place.

Table 1: Total change in year-over-year cost for combined water and sewer rates

Total change in average annual cost for various billing units from fiscal year 2020 (FY20) to fiscal year 2021 (FY21) (including base and volumetric charges)				
Total units per bill (in CCF) ¹	FY20	FY21		
	Annual total	Annual total	Total Annual Change (FY20 to FY21)	% change
15 (average condo unit) ²	\$ 742	\$ 766	\$24	3.23%
19 (average single family home) ²	\$ 950	\$ 983	\$33	3.47%
30 (average two-family home) ²	\$ 1,556	\$ 1,615	\$59	3.79%
42 (average three-family home) ²	\$ 2,162	\$ 2,247	\$85	3.93%
110 (average 8-unit apartment building) ³	\$ 5,802	\$ 6,045	\$243	4.19%

¹ The examples were chosen in order to provide a range of property types in Somerville.

² Based on billing analysis performed by Stantec Consulting Services Inc.

³ Based on the average usage of the applicable property type in Somerville

Table 2: Proposed FY21 Residential Volumetric Charges (tri-annual bills)

		FY2021 Residential Volumetric Charges (\$/billing unit*)		
Tier	Tier Range (per CCF)	Water	Sewer	Combined
Discount rate	0-8	4.20	7.98	12.18
T1	9-13	4.68	8.87	13.55
T2	14-67	6.74	11.32	18.06
T3	68-133	7.06	11.87	18.93
T4	OVER 133	7.34	12.29	19.63

*One unit = 100 cubic feet (CCF) or 748 gallons of water

Table 3: Proposed FY21 Commercial Volumetric Charges (bi-monthly bills)

		FY2020 Commercial Volumetric Charges (\$/billing unit*)		
Tier	Tier Range (per CCF)	Water	Sewer	Combined
T1	0-10	4.68	8.87	13.55
T2	11-100	6.74	11.32	18.06
T3	101-200	7.06	11.87	18.93
T4	OVER 200	7.34	12.29	19.63

*One unit = 100 cubic feet (CCF) or 748 gallons of water

An information session and public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, June 11 on the City's virtual platform. The information session will start at 6:00PM and provide an opportunity to address questions on the FY21 water and sewer rate proposal. The public hearing to take testimony regarding the FY21 water and sewer rate proposal will start at 6:30PM immediately following this information session. Additional Q&A time will be offered following the public hearing if attendees have remaining topics of discussion.

Following the public hearing, written testimony will be accepted via e-mail at water@somerillema.gov for five days. Testimony can also be submitted in advance at the same e-mail address.

If you have any questions, please contact me at jdeluca@somervillema.gov.

