

Board Approves New Water & Sewer Rates

At its March 10, 2009 regular meeting, the County of Caroline Board of Supervisors approved a comprehensive proposal for increasing the rates charged to the County's water and wastewater customers.

The major objectives of the approved rates are as follows:

- Establish a viable, self-sustaining enterprise fund for the Department of Public Utilities, enabling the Department's operations and maintenance to be fully self-supporting.
- Put in place a "tiered" rate structure, whereby those customers utilizing greater volumes of water will incur a larger portion of the cost to operate the system.
- Initiate a means to lessen the impact of increased summer usage, i.e., lawn watering, pool filling, car washing, by recognizing that the additional water used does not result in increased flow to the County's wastewater treatment facility.
- Establish an equitable means for determining ultimate use for individual water system connections.

Rates increases were deemed necessary by the majority of the Board to avoid further General Fund subsidies of the Utility Fund for operational expenses.

Under the new rates, which go into effect on April 1, 2009, an average residential customer who uses 4,000 gallons of water per month for water and sewer will see their monthly bill increase from \$44.10 to \$ 70.00.

Commercial customers will see their monthly bill increase over a range based on their actual usage, which varies widely among the individual commercial customers.

Under the Board approved changes, customers in the Milford Sanitary District, who receive water service only, will be combined with the County utility system and will now be billed monthly instead of quarterly. Customers who use up to 4,000 gallons will now pay \$19 per month instead of \$11.

Please click [here](#) for a full breakdown of the rate adjustments.

Contact the Department of Public Utilities at (804) 633-4390 or at www.visitcaroline.com for further information.