

City of Fort Calhoun Sewer Use Information

The sewer pipe line project to Blair has been completed; The City has approved the final payment to the contractor and is in the process of finalizing all of the details of the permanent financing for the project. There are two items associated with the project that out of necessity will be completed under separate contract at a later date. They are the demolition and removal of the un-necessary structures of the former sewer plant and running water to the new pump station.

The good news for all of us is that the construction contract came in under budget by a little over \$100,000.00. During this two year construction period, a number of inflow problems in the sewer system were discovered and have been repaired. This has made a significant impact on daily average and peak flows. Although there is still work to do in the inflow area, this reduction has allowed us to reduce our initial borrowing and schedule the work as part of our annual operating expenses.

We have been shipping our “product” (sewage) to Blair for treatment, without incident since May 4, 2009.

With the successful completion of the pipe line now we must begin the process of paying for the project. So you will see the new sewer rates on your August bill. Council member Genoways, also the Sewer Commissioner as well as Council Member Wilson, the City Clerk/Treasurer, Ron Woracek, TSA and Randy Hellbusch with the Nebraska Rural Water Association spent a great deal of time researching and working to develop a rate schedule that was as fair as possible to all users.

The new sewer rate is made up of three components, the **base** which every user pays, the **flow** which is based on consumption, for residential customers it is an average of winter consumption (please see the ordinance for the exact method of calculation), for industrial and commercial users it is based on actual consumption, and **abnormal** which is made up of SS (suspended solids) and BOD (biochemical oxygen demand) which I am happy to report that we currently do not have any customers that produce either.

With Ordinance No. 618, the city has established the following classes of users, Residential single units, Residential multiple units, Commercial general, Commercial medium, Commercial large, Industrial general and Industrial large.

The new rates have come in slightly higher than the projection we used two years ago during the bond election. However that was an average. **How the new rate effects you is dependent entirely on your consumption.**

Please be patient, though the city has worked hard to minimize the cost for this project, the cost was large and we understand the new rate structure is a big increase for everyone. All users share the burden.

Also, please understand the city really did not have much choice as the conveyance option to a larger facility was the NDEQ's preferred sewer treatment option for Fort Calhoun, as it has been for Kennard and Arlington.

On the bright side this change has allowed us to start some serious work in the economic development area. We should all be looking for new users; new users could mean better rates for everyone.

What will my new rate be, beginning with July's consumption billed in August?

	base	flow	abnormal
Residential			
single units	\$25.00	\$6.35	**
multiple units*	\$25.00	\$6.35	**
*(base is applied per unit)			
Commercial			
general	\$30.00	\$6.35	**
medium	\$50.00	\$6.35	**
large	\$125.00	\$6.35	**
Industrial			
general	\$500.00	\$6.35	**
large	\$1,250.00	\$6.35	**

The flow charge for all sewer service users shall be per 1,000 gallons.

** The abnormal charge for all sewer service users shall be the sum of: Abnormal SS (suspended solids) and abnormal BOD (biochemical oxygen demand) from Exhibit C, of the Interlocal *Waste Water Treatment* agreement with the City of Blair.

What you pay = base + flow + abnormal.

For example a residential single unit, who has an average use of 5,000 gallons, would pay:

$$\$25.00 + ((5,000 / 1,000 = 5) 5 * 6.35 = 31.75) + 0 = \$56.75 \text{ plus tax}$$