



Town of Hinsdale

Town Administrator
39 South Street
Hinsdale, MA 01235
(413) 655-2300, x355
town.administrator@hinsdalema.gov

June 28, 2021

To: Residents on Sewer III

From: Bob Graves, Town Administrator

Re: Sewer III Rate Increase

Unfortunately, I write today to inform you that we must increase the EDU Rate for those on Sewer III, and the increase shall be **\$150.00** per year, raising Sewer III's EDU Rate from **\$450.00** to **\$600.00** per year.

As was indicated the last time Sewer III's rate was increased, your system is the most complicated and costly of the three sewers in town. Let me explain.

- Sewer I – This system serves residents in the center of town. It is entirely gravity-fed and runs down into Dalton and then into Pittsfield. Therefore, it is the least expensive system to run and maintain. It currently has an adequate surplus that grows slowly, given the current expenses required for that system.
- Sewer II – This system is owned and operated by Dalton, but some Hinsdale residents are served. At the time of installation, the agreement between the towns was that Hinsdale collects the fees from Hinsdale residents (as required by the State) and pays Dalton for using this system on behalf of the Hinsdale residents less a small administrative charge for the service.
- Sewer III – This system is the costliest of the three to operate and maintain, which is understandable because it serves residents around both lakes, has pumping stations that pump sewage uphill and into the center of town, and then runs into Dalton and Pittsfield along with Sewer I. The DPW must maintain all the utility holes, lines, and pumps to keep the system running, so I hope this brief explanation helps Sewer III residents understand why their system is the most expensive.

We also have to pay Dalton, who in turn pays Pittsfield for disposal of our system's waste. After a considerable increase just over a year ago because of the rise in our disposal fees, the Commissioners said that we anticipated further increases in those fees, which are now beginning to realize. We had also hoped to start developing a long-term maintenance and operations plan this year. Still, we put it off for another year because Sewer III does not have adequate funds in surplus to meet the State's minimum requirement, let alone pay for further consulting work. We need to do this work in the next year or two so that the town has a proper plan to maintain our combined system, which is estimated to be at least a \$15 Million-dollar asset.

I hope this brief explanation clarifies the need for this increase in your EDU Rate. I apologize for the short notice, which has been solely my fault. We shall continue to keep this vital system running smoothly.

Sincerely,

Bob