

## **Bristol clarification on “rate hikes”**

The Town of Bristol has not increased the water and sewer rates they have in fact increased the fee in which a new customer would need to pay in order to tie into the water system, known as a hookup fee or unit fee. The increase in the fees has been a direct result of the increase in materials and labor cost to perform the service.

Bristol’s water bill is based on cubic feet of water used in increments of 100 cubic feet. As water flows through the water meter it turns a Piston in the measuring chamber this intern rotates a magnet that actuates the register on top of the meter. The register can be read manually or by a remote reader with a touch pad handheld.

Meters are read quarterly during the last weeks of March, June, September and December and bills are sent out the beginning of the following months.

Once the customer receives the bill they will notice a prior read and a current read as well as usage in units. These units are cubic feet of water used during the quarter. Of this usage the department deducts 10 % (use allowed for washing cars, watering of gardens and filling pools) in order to calculate for the sewage charge.

In Bristol the water customer after paying the \$20.00 minimum charge for service per quarter (500 cubic feet or 3,740 gallons of water allowance) can receive 748 gallons of water for \$1.80. That would be about four gallons of water for a penny.

Bristol will treat the residential sewer customer’s wastewater after paying the \$26.55 minimum charge for service per quarter (500 cubic feet or 3,700 gallons of wastewater allowance) for \$4.79 per

748 gallons. That converts to about one and a half gallons treated for a penny.

Bristol's last water rate change was in 1994 and remains the same today.

Bristol's last sewer rate change was in 2004 where there was an increase to the minimum charge per quarter in the amount \$5.00 to all customers.