



**PUBLIC NOTICE: PROPOSED WATER RATE INCREASE**

At the March 4, 2024 meeting of the Portageville Board of Aldermen, discussion was held over raising the water rates.

The current structure for water rates in Portageville was established in September of 2004. A minimum charge of \$9.11 was established as the base rate. In addition, each user was required to pay a unit charge for operation and maintenance in the amount of \$3.11 per 1000 gallons. The minimum bill was set at 2000 gallons, making a minimum water bill \$15.33. For an average family (5000 gallons), the cost was \$24.66.

In June of 2016, there was an increase. The base rate increased to \$9.56. In addition, each user was required to pay a unit charge for operation and maintenance in the amount of \$3.26 per 1000 gallons. For 2000 gallons, the minimum water bill was \$16.08. For an average family (5000 gallons), the cost was \$25.86.

In June of 2022, the Portageville Board of Aldermen were seeking ARPA funding to aid in the construction of a new water treatment plant. To increase scoring potential on the ARPA application, the operation and maintenance charge was increased by \$0.11 cents. The base rate was not affected and remained the same at \$9.56. The increase to the operation and maintenance charge was set at \$3.37. For 2000 gallons, the minimum water bill was \$16.30. For an average family (5000 gallons), the cost was \$26.41.

As you can see, the increase in water rates have been minimal over the past 20 years. While outside expenditure has increased significantly, our revenue to sustain our water treatment plant operations has not increased, which has made it hard to keep up in this economy.

In February of 2024, we were given documentation that projected the monthly user water rates that were needed to secure the future of the new water treatment plant. Worst case scenario placed the average family rate (5000 gallons) at \$54.00. Best case scenario placed the average family rate (5000 gallons) at \$52.37. This was significantly larger than our current rate of \$26.41. The completion date for the water treatment plant is scheduled for May 2026, which is the tentative deadline for when the new rate would need to be in place to show the ability to repay the debt. At last night’s Board of Aldermen meeting, it was approved to draft an ordinance increasing the water rates gradually over the next four years in hopes to not cause a financial burden on any citizen. The chart below shows the proposed increases customers could see.

	CURRENT	May 2024	January 2025	January 2026	January 2027
Base Rate	\$9.56	\$11.47	\$13.76	\$16.51	\$19.81
Usage Rate in excess of 2000 gallons per 1000 gallons	\$3.37/ 1000 gallons	\$4.04/ 1000 gallons	\$4.85/ 1000 gallons	\$5.82/ 1000 gallons	\$6.98/ 1000 gallons
2000 gallons Total (minimum bill)	\$16.30	\$19.55	\$23.46	\$28.15	\$33.77
5000 gallons Total (MPU Rate)	\$26.41	\$31.67	\$38.01	\$45.61	\$54.71

Your current utility bill is made up of Water, Sewer and Trash. This increase is to WATER only. It will not change the sewer or trash portion of your bill. The decision to raise water rates was not made lightly. Many discussions have taken place over the past several months concerning this topic. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to a member of the Portageville Board of Aldermen.