



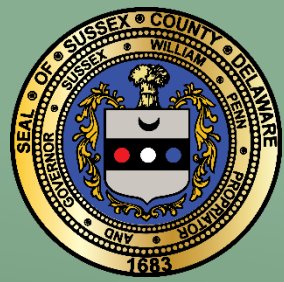
Sussex County Engineering Department

Blackwater Village Area
Sewer Update

Assessment Fee Estimate Increase

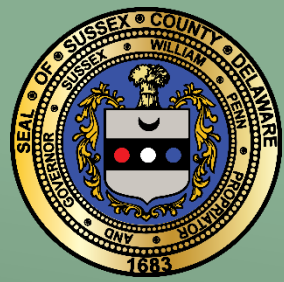
Public Hearing

Indian River High School Auditorium
29772 Armory Road, Dagsboro DE 19939
February 17, 2024 @ **9:30 AM**



Project Background/Information

1. The Engineering Department held a Public Hearing and Referendum establishing a new area within the unified sanitary sewer district according to DE State Code.
2. A second public hearing was requested and held for additional utilities within the area. Upon presentation of proposed rates, the County received affidavits requesting we not proceed to referendum.
3. Design of the gravity collection system was revised to a vacuum system due to the inability to secure critical easements in the community.
4. These previous two items did delay our application for financing and costs have increased for materials and construction.
5. Engineering & Finance Departments applied for federal funding (USDA) for the sewer project, their offer exceeded our proposed rate. We then applied to the State Revolving Fund (SRF) for the funding, we will explain this rate today.



Side by Side Cost Comparison -per household-

Estimated Annual Service Charge:

Previous
\$300.00

Current
\$330.00

Estimated Annual Assessment Charge:

\$680.00

\$1,815.00

System Connection Charge:

Existing Homes

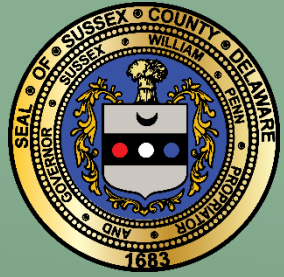
\$0.00

\$0.00

Total Estimated Annual Charge:

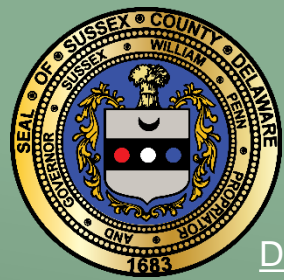
\$980.00

\$2,145.00



Where we are Today

1. Decision time: We will need to hold another referendum on the revised assessment rate to ascertain if the community wants to move forward or stop the project.
2. This decision will be based on the higher number of \$1,815.00 plus the Service Charge. Please remember the Service Charge can adjust annually in the County Budget.
3. The Engineering Department will establish a date, time, and location for the referendum vote.
4. Property owners will receive a notice, the information will be on the County website, advertised in the local paper and posted around the area.
5. There will be absentee ballots available and can be completed in our office with one visit.
6. If you request to have the absentee ballot mailed, we remind you this is a multiple step process so request early if you plan to vote absentee.
7. The referendum is determined by the majority of votes received.

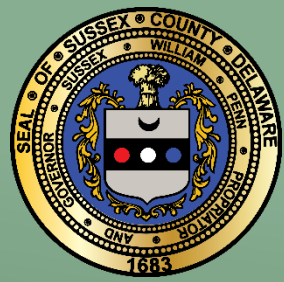


Eligible Voters

DEFINITION OF VOTER PER STATE LAW

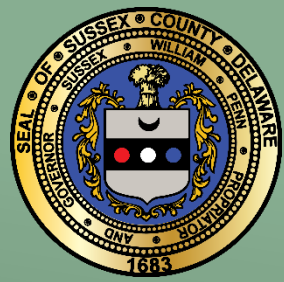
- (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this title, for the purpose of this chapter the terms "voter," "legal voters," and "elector" shall be deemed to include all the following persons:
- (1) Persons whose principal place of abode has been within the proposed sanitary and water district for at least six months immediately proceeding the date of the election or the date of the petition, whichever is applicable;
 - (2) Persons who own real estate in the proposed sanitary and water district on the date of the election or the date of the petition, whichever is applicable, regardless of where they reside, unless such real estate is subject to a lease described in paragraph four of this subsection;
 - (3) Corporations which own real estate in the proposed sanitary and water district on the date of the election or the date of the petition, whichever is applicable, unless such real estate is subject to a lease described in paragraph four of this subsection;
- (b) No person or corporation shall be entitled to more than one vote in any election.
- (c) Jointly or severally owned real estate shall be entitled to only one vote.
- (d) The president or vice-president of a corporation shall exercise the vote on behalf of the corporation, provided that such president or vice-president exhibits a notarized resolution of the corporation authorizing him to cast such vote.

Source: 9 Delaware Code, Section 6519



Absentee Ballots

- Available through the Sussex County Engineering Department (SCED)
- Contact Mrs. Sharon Smith at (302) 855-7706
- Requests can be made immediately following the approval from County Council to hold a new referendum.
- **This is a multiple step process, please request early to allow time for the mailings.**
- Ballots are due back at the Sussex County Engineering Department before 12:00 noon the day prior to the referendum per County Code.



Previously Estimate Rates

Estimated Annual Service Charge:

\$300/year per Equivalent Dwelling Unit; billed quarterly to connected customers (subject to change during the annual budget process).

Estimated Annual Assessment Charge:

\$680.00/year per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (fixed for the term of the financing)

System Connection Charge:

\$0.00 for homes existing at the time of substantial completion. The one-time System Connection Charge (SCC) fee will be included in the financing. Any future connection will be charged the SCC fee in effect at that time.

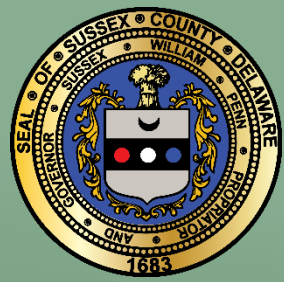
Estimated Annual Charge:

\$300 (service charge) + \$680 (assessment fee) = \$980 *

Estimated Connection Expenses:

Plumbing costs between \$1,500 - \$2,000 based on the complexity and \$100 Permit Fee to Sussex County.

* Based on federal recommendations that the total annual charge not to exceed 1.5% of Median Household Income (MHI) as reported in the latest available Sussex County wide Census Data.



Revised Estimate Rates

Estimated Annual Service Charge:

\$330.00/year per Equivalent Dwelling Unit; billed quarterly to connected customers (subject to change during the annual budget process).

Estimated Annual Assessment Charge:

\$1,815.00/year per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (fixed for the term of the financing)

System Connection Charge:

\$0.00 for homes existing at the time of substantial completion. The one-time System Connection Charge (SCC) fee will be included in the financing. Any future connection will be charged the SCC fee in effect at that time.

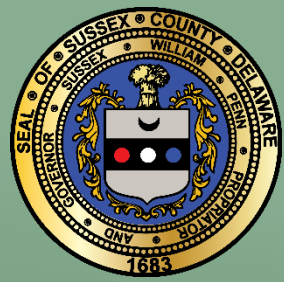
Estimated Annual Charge:

\$330.00 (service charge) + \$1,815.00 (assessment fee) = \$2,145.00**

Estimated Connection Expenses:

Plumbing costs between \$2,500 - \$3,000 based on the complexity and \$130 Permit Fee to Sussex County.

** Based on the limited amount of principal forgiveness pledged by State Revolving Fund (SRF).



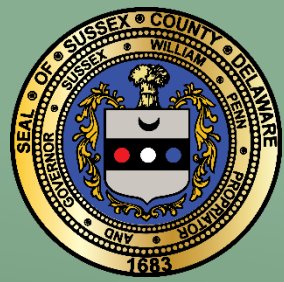
County Rate Structure

A. Annual

1. Service Charge – Billed Quarterly – Uniform across all areas
Recovers the costs of operating and maintaining the collection system, transmission system, and treatment facilities. The Service Charge is set in the annual budget.
2. Assessment Charge – Billed Annually with Tax Bill – Unique to each areas
Recovers the cost of constructing the sewer system based on the annual bond payments.

B. One-time

1. System Connection Charge – (“Impact Fee.”) - Uniform across all areas
One-time charge contributing towards debt retirement and future expansion or replacement of transmission and treatment facilities.
2. Permit Fee – Uniform across all Districts
Paid at the time of sewer permit application covering sewer lateral inspection and creation of billing records.



Boundary

