



Water History

Carlton created its first water district in 1913 by purchasing a pre-existing private water system by W.A Howe in 1901.

An ordinance was passed in 1913 to begin the construction of a sewer district. Upon completion of the water/sewer line installation, construction costs were assessed to the owners of properties served by the system to pay back the debt service needed to facilitate the project.

No fees were charged for using the City's water/sewer systems until 1926. After 1926 the City established a monthly billing process.

The fees stayed relatively consistent for the next 20 years until the billing structure was re-established in 1946 to include base fees and water usage rates based on the water volume.

In 1949 a sewage treatment plant was established, and water users in the City were also required to pay a monthly fee for the use of the sewer system.

In June of 2005, the City mandated an automatic water and sewer charge increase on July 1st of each year based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to keep up with the inflated costs of materials needed to maintain the systems.

The first significant increase in water rates in almost 52 years was in 2012 when the City increased the water rates 11% to cover repayment of debt services. In 2015 the City contracted with an independent rate consultant to analyze the billing structure and adopted a revised billing schedule based on meter size and water consumption in 2016. The City began to add increases to the water and sewer billing fees in addition to the yearly CPI to account for projected debt service coverage requirements and system operating and maintenance costs.

Changes in the sewer billing structure came a couple of years later, in 2018, after the Department of Environmental Quality mandated sewer system infrastructure repairs. The change in billing structure combined with the additional yearly rate increases has allowed the City to facilitate the mandated repairs and long-overdue replacement of failing infrastructure and still maintain a revenue-neutral billing system.