

Dear Trafford Borough Residents, Property Owners, and Business Owners,

There have been many speculations and concerns raised regarding sewage billing. This letter was written to provide a better understanding of the borough's billing, fees, and government mandates.

Billing process

Sewage bills are broken down into four different charges (see page four for a sample bill):

1. **Consumption**

A fee that is charged by ALCOSAN based on the amount of water used in a quarterly billing cycle. Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority or the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County provides this figure to ALCOSAN, which uses it to determine your cost. ALCOSAN rates are set by the ALCOSAN Board of Directors. The current usage charge for consumption is \$8.50 per 1,000 gallons of water used.

2. **Maintenance**

A fee that is charged by the Borough of Trafford also based on the amount of water used in a quarterly billing cycle. The rate is set by the Borough of Trafford Council yearly. The current usage charge for maintenance is \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons of water used. Please see below for additional information regarding funds allocation.

3. **Service**

A flat fee that is charged by ALCOSAN. The current charge is \$17.86 per quarter.

4. **Debt Service**

A flat fee that is charged by the Borough of Trafford to repay a loan that was taken to pay for federal and state-mandated sewer repairs. The current charge is \$18.00 per quarter. Please see below for additional information regarding funds allocation.

Synopsis

The sewage department does not read meters; all meter reads are forwarded from your water company to ALCOSAN and then sent to the Borough of Trafford. Sewage billing runs 95 to 100 days behind the water company. Water is billed monthly at a significantly lower rate than sewage. Water providers for the Borough of Trafford are the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County and the Wilkesburg Penn Joint Water Authority. The Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County measures water usage in gallons; however, Wilkesburg Penn Joint measures water usage in centum cubic feet (CCF), which often causes confusion for residents attempting to calculate their sewage bill.

One CCF is equal to 748.1 gallons. The formula to convert cubic feet to gallons is as follows: *total CCF readings for three months multiplied by 748.1 equals the total gallons consumed.*

For example: December's water bill reads 5 CCF, January's water bill reads 6 CCF, and February's water bill reads 3 CCF. The total CCF for three months was 14 CCF. Now take 14 CCF multiplied by 748.1, which equals 10,473.4 total gallons.

Sewage bills are mailed quarterly to property owners through third-party billing; this saves the borough both time and money. Billing monthly and/or in-house would significantly increase these costs. Sewage billing quarters run from November-February, February-May, May-August, and August-November. If a tenant would like a copy of their bill, they must call the borough office to request a bill copy.

Please note if your property is connected to the sanitary sewer system and is vacant and/or does not have water service, a sewage bill will be generated for the current minimum. Customers with vacant properties that do not wish to remain connected to the sanitary sewer system may elect to cap their sewer line. In such an event, the borough should be contacted prior to so the proper permitting and inspections can be obtained.

Understanding Maintenance and Debt Fees

The Maintenance Fee is the result of a mandate from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that was enacted in February of 2004. This mandate was a direct result of the Federal Government's 1972 Clean Water Act. The purpose of the mandate is to eliminate groundwater from infiltrating the sanitary system and overflowing it. ALCOSAN, who serves as the sewage treatment provider for the Borough of Trafford, has created a Clean Water Plan to address this. The plan includes a treatment plant expansion to increase its capacity to reduce the number of overflows. ALCOSAN currently has the capacity to treat 250 million gallons per day and plans to increase this to 600 million gallons per day by the end of 2027. Sewage overflows occur when pipes are clogged, broken, and during heavy rain events. ALCOSAN's facility upgrade costs were passed onto their customers, which in turn has increased the sewage rates. As part of the consent order the Borough of Trafford along with other municipalities throughout the state have and will continue to implement the requirements as follows:

1. Flow Monitoring

Sanitary sewer flow monitoring generally involves placing equipment, usually a sensor, into the sewer flow or above the sewer flow depending on the type of equipment. The sensor measures the depth and velocity and uses those parameters, along with pipe size and shape, to calculate the flow rate.

2. Sewer Lateral Inspections

A sewer lateral is a privately-owned pipeline connecting a residence or business to the publicly-owned main sewer line. A sewer lateral inspection is a video inspection of the sewer line that detects deficiencies such as roots, grease deposits, cracks, breaks, openings, rodent holes, or missing portions. If any deficiencies are detected, they must be corrected immediately by the property owner. All property sales require a sewer lateral inspection unless one has been completed within a period of three years.

3. Complete GIS Mapping of sewer system

A geographic information system (GIS) is a framework for gathering, managing, and analyzing data. Rooted in the science of geography, GIS integrates many types of data. It analyzes spatial location and organizes layers of information into visualizations using maps and 3D scenes.

4. Evaluation of all lines and manholes for deficiencies done through televising

In some cases, the borough is not equipped to clear blockages or to fix deficiencies and must rely on a contractor, which can be expensive. Additionally, serious deficiencies must be repaired immediately and can also be very costly.

5. Cleaning of all sewer lines and manholes

The intent of sewer line cleaning is to remove foreign materials from the lines to allow the pipe conditions to be evaluated during televising. The borough is responsible for maintaining and cleaning 17.27 miles of sanitary sewer lines. Each line varies in size from 6" - 18". The borough is also responsible for maintaining and cleaning 476 manholes and 7 ALCOSAN outfalls.

6. Corrections of all deficiencies, many of these items are ongoing

Even after the mandates are met, the system will need to remain in compliance. This means stormwater will not be permitted to infiltrate the sanitary system.

PennVest Loan and Mandated Projects

The Borough of Trafford secured a grant in 2014 in the amount of \$1,847,642.00 to help assist with funding the mandated repairs. The total project cost was \$4,662,970.87.

The projects completed are as follows:

Contract PV 1 (Sewer Pipe Bursting & Lining)

The contract was awarded to State Pipe Services with the lowest bid in the amount of \$385,340.00.

The areas included in the contract were: East Brinton Avenue, East Fairmont Avenue, Eighth Street Rear, Seventh Street Rear, and Woodlawn Drive.

Contract PV 2 (Rehabilitation)

The contract was awarded to R.A. Monzo with the lowest bid in the amount of \$1,331,261.30.

The areas included in the contract were Sixth Street Rear and Seventh Street Front and Rear.

Contract PV 3 (Rehabilitation)

The contract was awarded to R.A. Monzo with the lowest bid in the amount of \$983,413.50.

The areas included in the contract were Belleau Wood Boulevard, Woodlawn Drive, and BY Park.

Contract PV 4 (Rehabilitation)

The contract was awarded to Lawson Excavating in the amount of \$956,092.50.

The areas included in the contract were: Duquesne Avenue, Third Street, Fairmont Avenue, Adrian Avenue, Murrysville Road, and the Terrace Area.

Contract PV 5 (Spot repairs)

The contract was awarded to Roto Rooter in the amount of \$47,000.00.

There were various areas included within the contract.

On April 9, 2014, an open house pertaining to the PennVest Sewage Project was held in the Manchester Room from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of outlining the five separate sanitary sewer projects and to answer any questions. This mandated sanitary sewer project was completed by securing a loan from PennVest (Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority) in the amount of \$2,815,328.87. The loan is due to be paid in full by February of 2047. The annual loan payment is \$108,646.32. The borough collects a *Debt Fee* from all sewage customers, all funds collected via *Debt Fee* are dedicated to the debt service payments of the borough's PennVest loan.

Recent News

On October 1, 2019, during the regular monthly meeting, the Trafford Borough Council accepted a bid in the amount of \$190,455.00 to repair the sanitary line on Inwood Road. The funding for this project was deducted from the Sewage Fund. This is an example of a sanitary project paid for by the *Maintenance Fee* line item on your quarterly sewage bill.

To help families pay their sewage bills, ALCOSAN has created a Clean Water Assistance Fund. This program is administered by the Dollar Energy Fund. If eligible, you will receive a \$34.00 credit per quarter towards your sewage bill. For additional information, please visit the following webpage: www.dollarenergy.org/need-help/Pennsylvania/Alcosan/.

The borough has been and continues to be transparent regarding these matters. The borough holds monthly council meetings that are open to the public on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. If you are unable to attend, meeting minutes are posted on the borough website at www.traffordborough.com once approved.

Account: 654321

Billing Dates: 02/07/2020 to 05/08/2020

Bill ID: 20-7-180

Due Date: 08/26/2020

Service Address: 414 Brinton Avenue

Trafford Borough
P.O. Box 196
Trafford, PA 15085



Trafford Borough Sewage Department
414 Brinton Avenue – P.O. Box 196
Trafford, PA 15085
Phone: 412-372-7652
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
CLOSED SATURDAY, SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Payments may be placed in the drop box
Located outside of the main entrance of the
borough building if the main office is closed.

05/02/2020 **Last Payment:** \$397.25
Outstanding Balance: \$0.00

	Read Date	Consumption	Code	Amount
DEBT FEE	05/08/2020			\$18.00
SERVICE FEE*	05/08/2020			\$17.86
SEWER CONS*	05/08/2020	26,496.20	A	\$158.98
SEWER MAINT	05/08/2020	26,496.20	A	\$210.38
Total Current Charges				\$405.22
Total Amount Due				\$405.22
Total Due After 08/26/2020				\$445.74

10% PENALTY IF PAID AFTER DUE DATE
1% INTEREST PER MONTH ON UNPAID BALANCE

\$50 Posting Fee applied to balances
not paid 10 Business Days after the due date.

To be considered on time, and not subject
to any penalties or late fees, payments
must be received at the borough office
by 4:00 p.m. on the due date.

Detach at perforation and return with payment

Account # 654321

Name Trafford Borough

Service Address: 414 Brinton Avenue

Bill Id: 20-7-180

Due Date: 08/15/202

Balance Forward \$0.00
Current Charges \$405.22
Total Amount Due \$405.22

Mail Payment To:
Trafford Borough Sewage Department
414 Brinton Avenue – PO BOX 196
Trafford, PA 15085

Total Due After 08/26/2020 \$445.74