

**BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON
ORDINANCE NO. 950**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WEST EASTON BOROUGH, COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON, COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, Amending Section 5.01 of Ordinance No. 163 as amended, to provide for an increase in the sewer rates of the Borough of West Easton.

WHEREAS, the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority has imposed additional sewer treatment fees which have resulted in all member municipalities including the Borough of West Easton to raise their fees for sewer services.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained and it is ordained as follows:

SECTION 1: Section 5.01 of Ordinance No. 163 as amended by Ordinance No. 626, Ordinance No. 737, Ordinance No. 785, Ordinance No. 812, Ordinance No. 822 and Ordinance No. 855 is hereby repealed and replaced with the following language:

SECTION 5.01: All owners of property connected to and from which sewage and/or suitable industrial wastes are discharged to the Sewer System of the Authority shall pay to the Borough sewer rentals as follows:

A. **RESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENTS**

PRIVATE DWELLINGS (each dwelling unit) \$66.25 per quarter

SENIOR CITIZEN (AGE 65 OR OLDER) \$55.75 per quarter

1. The Sewer Rental fee shall be billed at the following times:
January 15th, or the next business day, and covers the period from January 1st until March 31st; April 15th, or the next business day, and covers the period from April 1st until June 30th, July 15th, or the next business day and covers the period from July 1st until September 30th, and October 15th, or the next business day and covers the period from October 1st until December 31st. Bills will be mailed to the property owner, not the tenant of the property. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to pay the bill. If a property is vacant, a sewer bill is still due. If a property is vacant and the water is off, there will be no sewer bill. Water shut off will be verified by the water company.
2. To qualify for the senior citizen discount, at least one property owner listed on the deed and/or tax bill must be sixty-five (65) years of age and reside at the residence. Proof of age and ownership is required. Such proof is a driver's license, birth certificate, deed to the property or a tax bill. A tenant of the property does not get the discount. Senior citizen discount applies to residential properties only.

3. When a senior citizen becomes deceased, the property will receive the senior citizen discount until the property is sold or transferred.
4. When a senior citizen owns one or more properties in the Borough, the property that the senior citizen resides in as his/her principal residence will receive the discount. The other property/properties will not receive the discount.
5. Each dwelling unit in a single house, in a double house, in a row of connecting houses, or in an apartment shall be billed as separate entity. Any room, group of rooms, house trailer, enclosure, etc. occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters by a family or other groups of persons living together or by persons living alone, shall be classified as a dwelling unit for sewer rental purposes.
6. After the SEWER portion of the bill total amount due is more than two (2) quarters, plus penalty, a shut-off notice will be sent to the homeowner. If the property is rented, a courtesy notice will also be sent to the tenant. The shut-off notices will be sent on the following dates: March 1st, or the next business day; June 1st, or the next business day; September 1st, or the next business day and on December 1st or the next business day.
7. Five days after the shut-off notice has been sent, the property will be posted for shut off. This is posted on the front door of the property.
8. Five days after posting the water shut off notice, the water company will be notified of the shut off. This is accompanied with a non-refundable charge of \$50 that will be applied to your account to be reimbursed to Easton Suburban Water Authority. This fee is in addition to the fifty (\$50.00) dollars charged by the Borough.
9. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to pay any re-connect charges to the water company.
10. Whenever water service is cut off at the request of West Easton, West Easton agrees to pay for such shut-off service the sum of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars, which sum shall reimburse Suburban for the cost of such shut-off services. In addition, West Easton shall pay to Suburban the estimated loss of water revenue resulting from such shut off. The estimated loss of water revenue shall be determined on the basis of average bills for such service determined over the previous six (6) month period and shall be submitted after service has been resumed or more than two (2) months elapse after service has been shut off, then at the end of each two (2) month period. Additionally, West Easton will remit to Suburban any expenses incurred by Suburban which exceed the Fifty (\$50.00) Dollar deposit. In addition, another additional Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars will be reimbursed to the Borough of West Easton for processing shut-off

procedure paperwork and process for a water shut-off. All of the above costs will be billed to the delinquent account.

B. NON-RESIDENTIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

1. All owners of non-residential property connected to the Sewer System shall pay sewer rentals based upon actual water consumption, except that owners of non-residential properties covered by subdivision B-2 hereof shall pay sewer rentals as calculated in subdivision B-2 if a higher sewer rental would result from such calculation. Sewer rentals based on water consumption shall be billed at the rate of \$3.40 per cubic foot of water consumed during the quarter for which the billing is rendered providing, however, that no sewer rental billing to a non-residential establishment shall be less than \$66.25 per quarter.
2. Sewer rental billing to commercial and industrial establishments discharging sewage and/or waste waters to the sewer system shall not be less than Six Dollars and Ninety-Six (\$6.96) Cents per employee per quarter, or its adjusted equivalent for service periods less than one quarter based upon the average number of persons employed per working day during the service period for which the billing is rendered. Minimum sewer rentals per employee shall be applicable to all commercial and industrial establishments. The total billing to industrial establishments for any service period shall be not less than Fifty (50%) per cent of the maximum billing of any one of the three consecutive preceding service periods.
3. After the SEWER portion of the bill total amount due is more than two (2) quarters, plus penalty, a shut-off notice will be sent to the owner of the premises. If the property is rented, a courtesy notice will also be sent to the tenant. The shut-off notices will be sent on the following dates: March 1st, or the next business day; June 1st, or the next business day; September 1st, or the next business day and on December 1st or the next business day.
4. Five days after the shut-off notice has been sent, the property will be posted for shut off. This is posted on the front door of the property.
5. Five days after posting the water shut off notice, the water company will the tenant will be notified of the shut off. This is accompanied with a non-refundable charge of \$50 that will be applied to your account to be reimbursed to Easton Suburban Water Authority. This fee is in addition to the fifty (\$50.00) dollars charged by the Borough.
6. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to pay any re-connect charges to the water company.

7. Whenever water service is cut off at the request of West Easton, West Easton agrees to pay for such shut-off service the sum of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars, which sum shall reimburse Suburban for the cost of such shut-off services. In addition, West Easton shall pay to Suburban the estimated loss of water revenue resulting from such shut off. The estimated loss of water revenue shall be determined on the basis of average bills for such service determined over the previous six (6) month period and shall be submitted after service has been resumed or more than two (2) months elapse after service has been shut off, then at the end of each two (2) month period. Additionally, West Easton will remit to Suburban any expenses incurred by Suburban which exceed the Fifty (\$50.00) Dollar deposit. In addition, another additional Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars will be reimbursed to the Borough of West Easton for processing shut-off procedure paperwork and process for a water shut-off. All of the above costs will be billed to the delinquent account.

C. PAYMENTS

1. Payment shall be made by the fifteenth of the following month or the next business day. If payment is not received by that date, a Ten (\$10.00) Dollar penalty shall be added.

D. EFFECTIVE DATE

1. The Ordinance shall be immediately effective.

ATTEST:


BOROUGH OF WEST EASTON


Administrative Clerk


Kelly Gross
President, Borough Council

Approved this ^{14th} day of January, 2013.

ATTEST:


Administrative Clerk


Gerald Gross, Mayor