



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**  
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

April 20, 2023

City Council President Linda Morad and  
Honorable Members of the City Council  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02720

Dear Council President Morad and Honorable Members:

As you know, the City has been mandated to undertake a long series of Wastewater and Stormwater Capital Improvement Projects to comply with a Federal Administrative Order. As the Council determined the last two years, it would only vote to approve one year of a rate increase at a time. To maintain on track with required increases over the next several years to afford these improvements, we are submitting the request for fiscal year 2024 to take effect July 1, 2023. Last fiscal year's rate increase was 9.0%, while this year we are proposing a more modest 7.7% increase while the CPI index was at 6.4% last calendar year.

I urge you to take up this matter with deliberate speed, as failure to adopt the proposed rate increases and to authorize the associated FY2024 loan order – which has previously been filed – by June 30, 2023, will result in the loss of State Revolving Fund (SRF) monies. As you may recall, there were missed deadlines in the past with these approvals that resulted in a loss of grant funds and caused compression in the timeline for the City to execute its capital plans. Any further delay in the approval of rates and associated appropriations will only exacerbate the situation for the City.

City staff and consultants are available to thoroughly brief the Council on the details of the rate proposal and five-year capital project plan at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Very truly yours,

Jonathan F. Mitchell  
Mayor

Etc.



**Department of Public Infrastructure**

**Jamie Ponte  
Commissioner**

**Water  
Wastewater  
Highways  
Engineering  
Cemeteries  
Park Maintenance  
Forestry**

**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**

**Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor**

April 6, 2023

Honorable Jonathan F. Mitchell  
City of New Bedford  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Subject: Capital Project Implementation  
Sewer Rate Impact Assessment  
Schedule of Sewer Rate Increases

Dear Mayor Mitchell:

I respectfully request that a motion for a sewer rate increase proposal be submitted to City Council on behalf of the Department of Public Infrastructure, Wastewater Division to take effect July 1, 2023.

With the adoption of these rates, it is required that the City approve an appropriation by June 30, 2023. This deadline is mandated by the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust to access the State Revolving Fund (SRF) funding awarded to the City. Without this funding, the City will not be able to meet the deadlines mandated by the EPA in our Administrative Order.

**Commodity Rate Proposal**

**Table 1** below summarizes the existing FY23 commodity rate and the proposed commodity rate for FY24:

**Table 1: Commodity Rate Proposal FY 24**

| FY 2023<br>(Current<br>Rate) | FY 2024 | Increase |
|------------------------------|---------|----------|
| \$6.67                       | \$7.18  | \$0.51   |

## Base Rate Proposal

Table 2 below summarizes the existing base rate for FY23 and the proposed base rate for FY24:

| Service Size | FY 2023 (Current Rate) | FY 2024    | Increase |
|--------------|------------------------|------------|----------|
| 5/8"         | \$108.25               | \$116.60   | \$8.35   |
| 3/4"         | \$108.25               | \$116.60   | \$8.35   |
| 1"           | \$108.25               | \$116.60   | \$8.35   |
| 1 1/2"       | \$108.25               | \$116.60   | \$8.35   |
| 2"           | \$108.25               | \$116.60   | \$8.35   |
| 3"           | \$356.83               | \$384.36   | \$27.53  |
| 4"           | \$516.06               | \$555.87   | \$39.81  |
| 6"           | \$960.94               | \$1,035.07 | \$74.13  |
| 8"           | \$1,493.87             | \$1,609.12 | \$115.25 |
| 10"          | \$2,114.85             | \$2,278.00 | \$163.15 |
| 12"          | \$2,114.85             | \$2,278.00 | \$163.15 |

I am requesting that the above charges in the commodity and base rates take effect July 1, 2023.

Thank you for considering this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (508) 979-1556.

Sincerely,



Jamie Ponte  
Commissioner



# CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

## CITY COUNCIL

April 27, 2023

ORDERED, that the schedule of rates and charges for wastewater service adopted by the City Council pursuant to Section 16-94 of the New Bedford Code of Ordinances on September 28, 2006, and amended on June 26, 2008, and June 23, 2016 is hereby rescinded, effective July 1, 2023; and

ORDERED, that the charges for suspended solids (TSS) and bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD) adopted by the City Council on June 28, 2008, pursuant to Section 16-91 of the New Bedford Code of Ordinances, shall remain in effect.

FURTHER ORDERED, that the following schedule of rates and charges for wastewater service is hereby established pursuant to Section 16-94 of the New Bedford Code of Ordinances:

### **WASTEWATER COMMODITY RATE:**

The FY24 commodity rate effective July 1, 2023 - **\$7.18**

### **WASTEWATER ANNUAL BASE CHARGE:**

The annual base charge for FY24, effective July 1, 2023, shall be as follows:

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 5/8" service size | <b>\$ 116.60</b>  |
| 3/4" service size | <b>\$ 116.60</b>  |
| 1" service size   | <b>\$ 116.60</b>  |
| 1 5" service size | <b>\$ 116.60</b>  |
| 2" service size   | <b>\$ 116.60</b>  |
| 3" service size   | <b>\$ 384.36</b>  |
| 4" service size   | <b>\$ 555.87</b>  |
| 6" service size   | <b>\$1,035.07</b> |
| 8" service size   | <b>\$1,609.12</b> |
| 10" service size  | <b>\$2,278.00</b> |
| 12" service size  | <b>\$2,278.00</b> |