

**Notice of Joint Public Hearing of the Board of Directors of the Amherst County Service Authority
and the Amherst County Board of Supervisors**

The Board of Directors of the Amherst County Service Authority and the Amherst County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing commencing at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, in the Amherst County Administration Building, 153 Washington Street, Amherst, Virginia 24521. The Board of Directors of the Amherst County Service Authority and the Amherst County Board of Supervisors will consider adoption of the following ordinance:

Ordinance 2019-0012: Amending §§ 15-122, 15-123, 15-124, 15-127, 15-128, and 15-129 of Article IV of Chapter 15 of the Amherst County Code to adjust water and sewer service rates and fees.

Amendments to the Authority's rates and the ordinance text include the following:

§15-122 Water Service Charges Subsection (a): The last sentence shall read: "The rate for water, per one hundred (100) cubic feet of water metered, shall be five dollars and thirty five cents (\$5.35)."

This is an increase of \$0.37 per one hundred cubic feet of water used, from \$4.98 to \$5.35. The basic service charge shall remain unchanged, at \$24.00, per bill rendered. The impact of the above changes on residential water accounts, using the utility-wide average of one hundred twenty gallons per day (120 GPD), would be an increase of \$1.85/month.

§15-123 Sewer Service Charges Subsection (b): The last sentence shall read: "The rate for sewage produced shall be seven dollars and ninety four cents (\$7.94) per one hundred (100) cubic feet of water metered."

This is an increase of \$0.62 per one hundred cubic feet of water discharged, from \$7.32 to \$7.94. The impact of this change on residential sewer accounts, using the utility-wide average of one hundred twenty gallons per day (120 GPD), with the basic service charge increase from \$4.00 to \$5.00 (see below), would be an increase of \$4.10/month.

§15-123 Sewer Service Charges Subsection (c): This subsection will read: "Each billing for sewer service shall include a five dollar (\$5.00) sewer basic service charge."

§15-124 Tables

Table 1: Commercial and Industrial Water Availability Charges

Availability charges that are based on normal domestic usage are increased \$210.00, as follows:

- h. Small businesses and commercial establishments (normal domestic usage) shall be.....\$3,000.00
- i. Multifamily dwelling units with a single meter, up to three (3) units.....\$3,000.00
- j. Industry (normal domestic usage) shall be.....\$3,000.00

§15-124 Tables

Table 2: Commercial and Industrial Sewer Availability Charges

Availability charges that are based on normal domestic usage are increased \$690.00, as follows:

- h. Small businesses and commercial establishments (normal domestic usage) shall be.....\$4,500.00
- i. Multifamily dwelling units with a single meter, up to three (3) units.....\$4,500.00
- j. Industry (normal domestic usage) shall be.....\$4,500.00

§15-127 Connection Charges Subsection (c):

The ¾" and 1" water connection fees on secondary and primary roads are increased \$215.00, as follows:

Secondary Roads

- (1) ¾ inch pipe.....\$1,500.00
- (2) 1 inch pipe.....\$1,955.00

Primary Roads

- (3) ¾ inch pipe.....\$1,680.00
- (4) 1 inch pipe.....\$2,200.00

Similar to connections larger than 1", as specified in §15-127 (d), the connection fees for ¾" and 1" water connection fees on dual highways will be the actual cost of making the connection, as determined by the Service Authority Director of Public Utilities, but shall not be less than the 1" connection fee specified for secondary roads, as follows:

Dual Highway Connections

- (5) ¾ inch pipe.....As calculated
- (6) 1 inch pipe.....As calculated

§15-128 Sewer Connection Fees Subsection (e):

The non-dual highway 4" sewer connection fee is increased \$100.00 and, similar to the change in §15-127 that all water connections on dual highways will be the actual cost of making the connection, but not less than the fee for a 1" connection on secondary roads, the cost of all sewer connections, of any size, on dual highways shall be the actual cost of making the connection, but not less than the fee for a 4" connection on a secondary road. Subsection (e) will read as follows:

"The sewer connection fee shall be one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) for a four inch connection. Larger connections shall be actual cost, but not less than the four inch connection fee. Dual highway connections of any size shall be actual cost, but not less than the four inch connection fee."

§15-129 Availability Charges Subsection (a), Subparagraph (1):

The base water availability charges is increased \$210.00, to \$3,000.00, as follows:

- (1) Water availability charge: For residential premises, the water availability charge shall be three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) per dwelling unit. For other premises, availability charges shall be based on Table 1 or three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) times the quotient of the estimated flow, which calculations shall be provided on the letterhead of an engineer or architect bearing their professional seal, based on an assumed usage of two hundred seventy five gallons per day (275 gpd). If the availability charges are determined using both Table 1 and estimated flows, the Service Authority Director of Public Utilities shall select the lower of the two (2) charges determined. In no instance shall the water availability charge be less than three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for each connection to the system.

§15-129 Availability Charges Subsection (a), Subparagraph (2):

The base sewer availability charges is increased \$690.00, to \$4,500.00, as follows:

- (2) Sewer availability charge: For residential premises, the sewer availability charge shall be four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) per dwelling unit. For other premises, availability charges shall be based on Table 2 or four thousand five hundred (\$4,500.00) times the quotient of the estimated flow, which calculations shall be provided on the letterhead of an engineer or architect bearing their professional seal, based on an assumed usage of two hundred seventy five gallons per day (275 gpd). If the availability charges are determined using both Table 2 and estimated flows, the Service Authority Director of Public Utilities shall select the lower of the two (2) charges determined. In no instance shall the water availability charge be less than four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) for each connection to the system.

§15-129 Availability Charges Subsection (c):

The base sewer availability charges is increased \$690.00, to \$4,500.00, as follows:

- (c) For any residential premises having a utilized private sewage treatment system, the sewer availability charge shall be forty (40) percent (40%) of the amount specified in this section per dwelling unit, provided connection into the Service Authority's is made within the first twelve (12) months following following availability of the public sewer line. After the first twelve (12) months following line availability, the charge shall be four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) per unit, for all premises having a utilized private sewage treatment system.

§15-129 Availability Charges Subsection (d):

The base sewer availability charges is increased \$690.00, to \$4,500.00, as follows:

- (d) For residential premises of fewer than four (4) units, constructed after the availability of the public sewer line, the sewer availability charge shall be four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) per dwelling unit.

§15-129 Availability Charges Subsection (e):

The base sewer availability charges is increased \$690.00, to \$4,500.00, as follows:

- (e) For other premises constructed after the availability of the public sewer line, the sewer availability charge shall be based on Table 2 or four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) times the quotient of the flow estimated, which calculations shall be provided on the letterhead of an engineer or architect, bearing their professional seal, based on an assumed usage of two hundred seventy five gallons per day (275 gpd), but in not instance shall the sewer availability charge be less than four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00).

The proposed new rates will take effect with the billing of January 1, 2020.

The preliminary rate schedule and proposed ordinance are available for review from Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. in the County Administrator's office at the above address, and at the Water Office of the Amherst County Service Authority, 113 Phelps Road, Madison Heights, VA 24572.

Accommodations for disabled persons may be made by calling 434-946-9400 at least five (5) days prior to the hearing date.

Dean C. Rodgers
Amherst County Administrator

Robert A. Hopkins, P.E.
ACSA Director of Public Utilities