



## Explanation of charges on a City of Bismarck utility Bill:

**All Accounts** except out of season irrigation meters pay a minimum monthly bill.

- **Curb Stop Repair** charges help cover costs of maintain and or repairing water service lines from the water main to the curb stop for certain residential properties.
- **Street and Traffic Signal Maintenance** charges help cover costs for traffic signals and streetlights throughout our community. Rates are determined based on property type and whether or not a City of Bismarck streetlight is present nearby.
- **Water Minimum** is charged to each account based on meter size and property type. This charge is a flat rate that helps pay for the fixed costs of our water system.
- **Water Consumption** is charged to each account *in addition* to the water minimum and is usage based. Water consumption is billed in units (Hundred Cubic Feet or HCF), the rough equivalent of 748 gallons. This charge is a variable and is based on the meter reading at each property. This rate helps pay for the variable production costs of our water system.
- **Sewer Minimum** is charged to each account based on meter size and property type. This charge is a flat rate that helps pay for the fixed costs of our wastewater system.
- **Sewer Consumption** is charged to each account *in addition* to the water minimum and is usage based. Sewer consumption is also billed in units (Hundred Cubic Feet or HCF), the rough equivalent of 748 gallons. This charge is a variable, based on the recorded water usage units at each property. This rate helps pay for the variable production costs of our wastewater system.
  - **Sewer Rates:** Sewer rates are based on water use as most water flows into the sewer system. Sewer is billed for each unit of water used unless the property is eligible for summer sewer averaging.
  - **Summer Sewer Averaging:** A monthly average of water consumption for qualifying accounts is calculated based on water usage beginning November 1st and ending May 1st each year. This average is used for billing sewer consumption during the summer months as a method designed to eliminate sewer charges for lawn and garden-watering, swimming pools and other similar spring and summer water uses.
  - **Summer Sewer Averaging** will be reflected on your utility bills May through October.
  - **New accounts** will be assigned 5 units as the summer sewer average.
- **Storm Sewer** charges are based on the type of property and either the assessed square footage of the lot or impervious square footage on the lot.
- **Sewer Backup Protection** charges are a flat fee on residential accounts. This charge helps cover costs for a backup of a City of Bismarck sewer main into the property.
- **Waste Collection** charges are for City of Bismarck solid waste (garbage) and recycling collection at residential properties.