

CITY OF BLUEFIELD

AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH THE RATES, FEES AND CHARGES FOR SERVICE TO CUSTOMERS OF THE PUBLIC SANITARY SEWERAGE COLLECTION AND TREATMENT SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CITY OF BLUEFIELD HEREBY ORDAINS: The following rules, rates and charges are hereby fixed, determined and established for municipal sewerage services provided to all customers of the City of Bluefield's sewerage collection and treatment system, commencing upon the effective date as hereinafter provided, and in accordance with the following Rates and Schedules:

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- I. *Rules and Regulations for the Government of Sewer Utilities*, adopted by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, and now in effect, and all amendments thereto and modifications thereof hereafter made by said Commission.

**SECTION 1 – TARIFF**

*Step 1  
(Effective 45 Days After Enactment)*

APPLICABILITY

Applicable in the entire territory or area served.

SECTION 1, SCHEDULE OF VOLUMETRIC RATES

- A. The rates and charges set out immediately below are effective for all sewerage delivered into the system.

RATES

Available for sanitary sewer service to domestic and industrial customers:

First	10,000 gallons used per month	\$14.85 per 1,000 gallons
Next	490,000 gallons used per month	\$13.48 per 1,000 gallons
All over	500,000 gallons used per month	\$8.80 per 1,000 gallons

SERVICE TO OTHER SYSTEMS

Available for sanitary sewer service to other systems:

Rate per metered gallons                      \$3.50 per 1,000 gallons

MINIMUM MONTHLY CHARGE

The minimum monthly charge to any user of the sewerage system shall be \$29.70.

SECTION 2, ADDITIONAL CHARGES AND TERMS

- A. The rates and charges set out immediately below are effective for all sewerage delivered into the system.

INDUSTRIAL SURCHARGE RATES

Rate applicable to Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) concentration in excess of 240 mg/l.

Rate applicable to Total Suspended Solids (TSS) concentration in excess of 240 mg/l.

This surcharge will be based upon the following formulas applicable to users whose wastewaters are treated at the POTW:

- US = (BOD-240) (8.345) (\$0.21) Vu for 1 million gal. and over
- US = (SS-240) (8.345) (\$0.26) Vu for 1 million gal. and over
- US = (BOD-240) (8.345) (\$1.00/#BOD) for up to 1 million gal. and over
- US = (SS-240) (8.345) (\$1.00/#SS) for up to 1 million gal. and over

where

- US = User's surcharge per month in dollars
- BOD = Average measured BOD value of user's wastewater in mg/l
- SS = Average measured SS value of user's wastewater in mg/l
- Vu = Volume of user's monthly wastewater contribution in millions of gallons

\* The above formula reflect the current estimated operation and maintenance costs for treatment per pound of BOD and SS at the POTW. The factors affecting such cost may be reviewed by the Bluefield Sanitary Board and the above formulas revised to reflect revised operation and maintenance costs as required.

COMMODITY CHARGE

Each hauler shall pay a commodity charge of \$0.20 per gallon based on the volume of the tank whether partially full or full.

LEAK ADJUSTMENT RATE

\$5.00 per 1,000 gallons. To be used when the bill reflects unusual consumption which can be attributed to eligible water leakage on the customer's side of the meter. This rate shall be applied to all such unusual consumption above the customer's historical average usage for water that did not enter the sanitary sewer system. No adjustments will be made for leaks occurring in toilets and/or bidets.

DELAYED PAYMENT PENALTY

Ten percent (10%) penalty shall be added to all charges not paid within twenty (20) days from the date of the billing. This delayed payment penalty is not interest and is only to be collected once for each bill where it is appropriate.

UNMETERED USERS

In locations where the customer has no water meter, charges for sewer service shall be assessed based upon 4,500 gallons of water usage for residential customers per month.

TAP OR CONNECTION FEE

The following charges are to be made whenever the utility installs a new tap to serve an applicant:

A tap fee of \$200.00 will be charged to all customers applying for service before construction on standard or alternate main line extensions or certificate projects. This pre-construction tap fee will be invalid after completion of construction of the standard or alternate main line extension or certificate project.

A tap fee of \$500.00 or the actual cost, solely determined by the Utility, will be charged to all customers who apply for service outside of a standard or alternate main line extension or certificate project.

WATER DISCONNECT-RECONNECT FEES

Whenever water service has been disconnected for nonpayment of sewer bills, a sewer service disconnection fee of \$20.00 shall be charged.

Whenever water service which has been previously disconnected, or otherwise withheld for nonpayment of sewer bill, is reconnected, a reconnection fee of \$20.00 shall be charged.

MUNICIPAL EXCISE TAX SURCHARGE

The municipality listed below, having imposed a public utility tax computed on the basis of two percent of revenues from sewer service sales by the sewer utility within the corporate limits of such municipalities, shall be billed as a “surcharge” to the customers receiving service within said corporate limits.

The sewer utility is required to collect the utility tax pursuant to West Virginia Code Section 8-13-5a.

Customers receiving sewer service within the corporate limits of the specified municipality shall pay the following surcharge rates.

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Utility Excise Tax, Local Tax Rate</u>	<u>Surcharge Rate</u>
Bluefield, WV	2%	2%

RETURNED CHECK CHARGE

If a check received is returned by the bank for any reasons, the bank’s charge to the Bluefield Sanitary Board shall be the charge to the customer, but such charge to the customer shall not exceed \$35.00.

SECURITY DEPOSIT

New customers or customers to a new location must pay the Bluefield Sanitary Board’s security deposit and present a receipt for payment of the security deposit to the water utility serving the new customer before water service can be provided. A security deposit not to exceed two-twelfths (2/12) of the annual estimated charge for the class of customer served shall be charged to new customers and reconnected customers of the sewerage system of the City of Bluefield throughout the entire territory served.

BILL REPRINT FEE

A charge of \$1.00 will be assessed to customers who do not present the bar coded section of the bill provided by the Bluefield Sanitary Board.

EFT, CREDIT CARD AND DROP BOX PAYMENTS

A service charge may be imposed on electronic funds transfer, ACH, credit card or drop box payments equal to the actual charges from the financial institution to the Bluefield Sanitary Board.

SURCHARGE FORMULA TO BE APPLIED IN CASES WHERE SURFACE DRAINAGE IS CONNECTED TO THE UTILITY’S SEWER SYSTEM

Whenever the utility has discovered that a customer’s roof drain, downspouts, storm sewer, or other similar facilities conducting surface water have been connected to the utility’s sewer system and such customer has failed to take appropriate action within thirty (30) days of receipt of a demand by the utility in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Public Service Commission to eliminate such connection, a surcharge will be imposed upon the customer calculated on the basis of the following formula:

$$S = A \times R \times .0006233 \times C$$

- S = The surcharge in dollars.
- A = The area under roof and/or the area of any other water collection surface connected to the sanitary sewer, in square feet.
- R = The measured monthly rainfall, in inches.
- .0006233 = A conversion factor to change inches of rain x square feet of surface to thousands of gallons of water.
- C = The utility’s approved rate per thousand gallons of metered water usage.

The utility shall not impose the surcharge unless and until the customer has been notified by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand delivery, that it has been established by smoke testing, dye testing, or on-site inspection that rain or other surface water is being introduced into the sanitary sewer system at the customer’s location, and that the customer has not acted within thirty (30) days from receipt of such notice to divert the water from the sanitary sewer system.

Said surcharge shall be calculated and imposed for each month that said condition continues to exist. Failure to pay the surcharge and/or correct the situation shall give rise to the possible termination of water service in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia.

SURCHARGE FORMULA TO BE APPLIED TO A CUSTOMER PRODUCING UNUSUAL WASTE

The charge for the treatment of unusual waste will be calculated on the basis of the following formula:

$$C_i = V_o V_i + B_o B_i + S_o S_i$$

- C<sub>i</sub> = Charge to unusual users per year.
- V<sub>o</sub> = Average unit cost of transport and treatment chargeable to volume, in dollars per gallon.
- V<sub>i</sub> = Volume of wastewater from unusual users, in gallons per year.
- B<sub>o</sub> = Average unit cost of treatment, chargeable to biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) in dollars per pound.
- B<sub>i</sub> = Weight of BOD from unusual users in pounds per year.
- S<sub>o</sub> = Average unit cost of treatment (including sludge treatment) chargeable to total solids in dollars per pound.
- S<sub>i</sub> = Weight of total solids from unusual users in pounds per year.

When an unusual user is to be served, a preliminary study of its wastes, and the cost of transport and treatment thereof, will be made. Waste containing materials which, in the judgment of the utility, should not be introduced into the sewer system, need not be handled by it. The results of this preliminary study will be used to determine the feasibility of the proposed sewer service and the charge therefore, based upon the formula set out above.

Thereafter, unusual sewage will be monitored on a regular basis and at the conclusion of each fiscal year, based on the investigation aforesaid and audit of the utility's records, new cost figures will be calculated for use in the above formula. The cost of establishing the monitoring facilities shall be paid by the unusual user. Based on these audited figures, additional billings covering the past fiscal year will be made for payment by each unusual user, or refund given by the utility, as the case may be. Such audited figures will then be used for the preliminary billing for the next fiscal year, at the end of which an adjustment will be made as aforesaid.

*Step 2*  
*(Effective January 1, 2025)*

APPLICABILITY

Applicable in the entire territory or area served.

SECTION 1, SCHEDULE OF VOLUMETRIC RATES

A. The rates and charges set out immediately below are effective for all sewerage delivered into the system.



LEAK ADJUSTMENT RATE

\$5.00 per 1,000 gallons. To be used when the bill reflects unusual consumption which can be attributed to eligible water leakage on the customer's side of the meter. This rate shall be applied to all such unusual consumption above the customer's historical average usage for water that did not enter the sanitary sewer system. No adjustments will be made for leaks occurring in toilets and/or bidets.

DELAYED PAYMENT PENALTY

Ten percent (10%) penalty shall be added to all charges not paid within twenty (20) days from the date of the billing. This delayed payment penalty is not interest and is only to be collected once for each bill where it is appropriate.

UNMETERED USERS

In locations where the customer has no water meter, charges for sewer service shall be assessed based upon 4,500 gallons of water usage for residential customers per month.

TAP OR CONNECTION FEE

The following charges are to be made whenever the utility installs a new tap to serve an applicant:

A tap fee of \$200.00 will be charged to all customers applying for service before construction on standard or alternate main line extensions or certificate projects. This pre-construction tap fee will be invalid after completion of construction of the standard or alternate main line extension or certificate project.

A tap fee of \$500.00 or the actual cost, solely determined by the Utility, will be charged to all customers who apply for service outside of a standard or alternate main line extension or certificate project.

WATER DISCONNECT-RECONNECT FEES

Whenever water service has been disconnected for nonpayment of sewer bills, a sewer service disconnection fee of \$20.00 shall be charged.

Whenever water service which has been previously disconnected, or otherwise withheld for nonpayment of sewer bill, is reconnected, a reconnection fee of \$20.00 shall be charged.

MUNICIPAL EXCISE TAX SURCHARGE

The municipality listed below, having imposed a public utility tax computed on the basis of two percent of revenues from sewer service sales by the sewer utility within the corporate limits of such municipalities, shall be billed as a "surcharge" to the customers receiving service within said corporate limits.

The sewer utility is required to collect the utility tax pursuant to West Virginia Code Section 8-13-5a.

Customers receiving sewer service within the corporate limits of the specified municipality shall pay the following surcharge rates.

Municipality  
Bluefield, WV

Utility Excise Tax, Local Tax Rate  
2%

Surcharge Rate  
2%

RETURNED CHECK CHARGE

If a check received is returned by the bank for any reasons, the bank's charge to the Bluefield Sanitary Board shall be the charge to the customer, but such charge to the customer shall not exceed \$35.00.

SECURITY DEPOSIT

New customers or customers to a new location must pay the Bluefield Sanitary Board's security deposit and present a receipt for payment of the security deposit to the water utility serving the new customer before water service can be provided. A security deposit not to exceed two-twelfths (2/12) of the annual estimated charge for the class of customer served shall be charged to new customers and reconnected customers of the sewerage system of the City of Bluefield throughout the entire territory served.

BILL REPRINT FEE

A charge of \$1.00 will be assessed to customers who do not present the bar coded section of the bill provided by the Bluefield Sanitary Board.

EFT, CREDIT CARD AND DROP BOX PAYMENTS

A service charge may be imposed on electronic funds transfer, ACH, credit card or drop box payments equal to the actual charges from the financial institution to the Bluefield Sanitary Board.

SURCHARGE FORMULA TO BE APPLIED IN CASES WHERE SURFACE DRAINAGE IS CONNECTED TO THE UTILITY'S SEWER SYSTEM

Whenever the utility has discovered that a customer's roof drain, downspouts, storm sewer, or other similar facilities conducting surface water have been connected to the utility's sewer system and such customer has failed to take appropriate action within thirty (30) days of receipt of a demand by the utility in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Public Service Commission to eliminate such connection, a surcharge will be imposed upon the customer calculated on the basis of the following formula:

$$S = A \times R \times .0006233 \times C$$

S = The surcharge in dollars.

A = The area under roof and/or the area of any other water collection surface connected to the sanitary sewer, in square feet.

R = The measured monthly rainfall, in inches.

.0006233 = A conversion factor to change inches of rain x square feet of surface to thousands of gallons of water.



C = The utility's approved rate per thousand gallons of metered water usage.

The utility shall not impose the surcharge unless and until the customer has been notified by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand delivery, that it has been established by smoke testing, dye testing, or on-site inspection that rain or other surface water is being introduced into the sanitary sewer system at the customer's location, and that the customer has not acted within thirty (30) days from receipt of such notice to divert the water from the sanitary sewer system.

Said surcharge shall be calculated and imposed for each month that said condition continues to exist. Failure to pay the surcharge and/or correct the situation shall give rise to the possible termination of water service in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia.

SURCHARGE FORMULA TO BE APPLIED TO A CUSTOMER PRODUCING UNUSUAL WASTE

The charge for the treatment of unusual waste will be calculated on the basis of the following formula:

$$C_i = V_o V_i + B_o B_i + S_o S_i$$

- $C_i$  = Charge to unusual users per year.
- $V_o$  = Average unit cost of transport and treatment chargeable to volume, in dollars per gallon.
- $V_i$  = Volume of wastewater from unusual users, in gallons per year.
- $B_o$  = Average unit cost of treatment, chargeable to biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) in dollars per pound.
- $B_i$  = Weight of BOD from unusual users in pounds per year.
- $S_o$  = Average unit cost of treatment (including sludge treatment) chargeable to total solids in dollars per pound.
- $S_i$  = Weight of total solids from unusual users in pounds per year.

When an unusual user is to be served, a preliminary study of its wastes, and the cost of transport and treatment thereof, will be made. Waste containing materials which, in the judgment of the utility, should not be introduced into the sewer system, need not be handled by it. The results of this preliminary study will be used to determine the feasibility of the proposed sewer service and the charge therefore, based upon the formula set out above.

Thereafter, unusual sewage will be monitored on a regular basis and at the conclusion of each fiscal year, based on the investigation aforesaid and audit of the utility's records, new cost figures will be calculated for use in the above formula. The cost of establishing the

monitoring facilities shall be paid by the unusual user. Based on these audited figures, additional billings covering the past fiscal year will be made for payment by each unusual user, or refund given by the utility, as the case may be. Such audited figures will then be used for the preliminary billing for the next fiscal year, at the end of which an adjustment will be made as aforesaid.

***Step 3***  
***(Effective January 1, 2026)***

**APPLICABILITY**

Applicable in the entire territory or area served.

**SECTION 1, SCHEDULE OF VOLUMETRIC RATES**

A. The rates and charges set out immediately below are effective for all sewerage delivered into the system.

**RATES**

Available for sanitary sewer service to domestic and industrial customers:

First	10,000 gallons used per month	\$18.79 per 1,000 gallons
Next	490,000 gallons used per month	\$17.05 per 1,000 gallons
All over	500,000 gallons used per month	\$11.13 per 1,000 gallons

**SERVICE TO OTHER SYSTEMS**

Available for sanitary sewer service to other systems:

Rate per metered gallons                      \$4.88 per 1,000 gallons

**MINIMUM MONTHLY CHARGE**

The minimum monthly charge to any user of the sewerage system shall be \$37.58.

**SECTION 2, ADDITIONAL CHARGES AND TERMS**

A. The rates and charges set out immediately below are effective for all sewerage delivered into the system.

**INDUSTRIAL SURCHARGE RATES**

Rate applicable to Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) concentration in excess of 240 mg/1.

Rate applicable to Total Suspended Solids (TSS) concentration in excess of 240 mg/1.

This surcharge will be based upon the following formulas applicable to users whose wastewaters are treated at the POTW:

US	=	(BOD-240) (8.345) (\$0.21) Vu for 1 million gal. and over
US	=	(SS-240) (8.345) (\$0.26) Vu for 1 million gal. and over
US	=	(BOD-240) (8.345) (\$1.00/#BOD) for up to 1 million gal. and over
US	=	(SS-240) (8.345) (\$1.00/#SS) for up to 1 million gal. and over

where

US = User's surcharge per month in dollars  
BOD = Average measured BOD value of user's wastewater in mg/l  
SS = Average measured SS value of user's wastewater in mg/l  
Vu = Volume of user's monthly wastewater contribution in millions of gallons

\* The above formula reflect the current estimated operation and maintenance costs for treatment per pound of BOD and SS at the POTW. The factors affecting such cost may be reviewed by the Bluefield Sanitary Board and the above formulas revised to reflect revised operation and maintenance costs as required.

#### COMMODITY CHARGE

Each hauler shall pay a commodity charge of \$0.20 per gallon based on the volume of the tank whether partially full or full.

#### LEAK ADJUSTMENT RATE

\$5.00 per 1,000 gallons. To be used when the bill reflects unusual consumption which can be attributed to eligible water leakage on the customer's side of the meter. This rate shall be applied to all such unusual consumption above the customer's historical average usage for water that did not enter the sanitary sewer system. No adjustments will be made for leaks occurring in toilets and/or bidets.

#### DELAYED PAYMENT PENALTY

Ten percent (10%) penalty shall be added to all charges not paid within twenty (20) days from the date of the billing. This delayed payment penalty is not interest and is only to be collected once for each bill where it is appropriate.

#### UNMETERED USERS

In locations where the customer has no water meter, charges for sewer service shall be assessed based upon 4,500 gallons of water usage for residential customers per month.

#### TAP OR CONNECTION FEE

The following charges are to be made whenever the utility installs a new tap to serve an applicant:

A tap fee of \$200.00 will be charged to all customers applying for service before construction on standard or alternate main line extensions or certificate projects. This pre-construction tap fee will be invalid after completion of construction of the standard or alternate main line extension or certificate project.

A tap fee of \$500.00 or the actual cost, solely determined by the Utility, will be charged to all customers who apply for service outside of a standard or alternate main line extension or certificate project.

#### WATER DISCONNECT-RECONNECT FEES

Whenever water service has been disconnected for nonpayment of sewer bills, a sewer service disconnection fee of \$20.00 shall be charged.

Whenever water service which has been previously disconnected, or otherwise withheld for nonpayment of sewer bill, is reconnected, a reconnection fee of \$20.00 shall be charged.

MUNICIPAL EXCISE TAX SURCHARGE

The municipality listed below, having imposed a public utility tax computed on the basis of two percent of revenues from sewer service sales by the sewer utility within the corporate limits of such municipalities, shall be billed as a “surcharge” to the customers receiving service within said corporate limits.

The sewer utility is required to collect the utility tax pursuant to West Virginia Code Section 8-13-5a.

Customers receiving sewer service within the corporate limits of the specified municipality shall pay the following surcharge rates.

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Utility Excise Tax, Local Tax Rate</u>	<u>Surcharge Rate</u>
Bluefield, WV	2%	2%

RETURNED CHECK CHARGE

If a check received is returned by the bank for any reasons, the bank’s charge to the Bluefield Sanitary Board shall be the charge to the customer, but such charge to the customer shall not exceed \$35.00.

SECURITY DEPOSIT

New customers or customers to a new location must pay the Bluefield Sanitary Board’s security deposit and present a receipt for payment of the security deposit to the water utility serving the new customer before water service can be provided. A security deposit not to exceed two-twelfths (2/12) of the annual estimated charge for the class of customer served shall be charged to new customers and reconnected customers of the sewerage system of the City of Bluefield throughout the entire territory served.

BILL REPRINT FEE

A charge of \$1.00 will be assessed to customers who do not present the bar coded section of the bill provided by the Bluefield Sanitary Board.

EFT, CREDIT CARD AND DROP BOX PAYMENTS

A service charge may be imposed on electronic funds transfer, ACH, credit card or drop box payments equal to the actual charges from the financial institution to the Bluefield Sanitary Board.

SURCHARGE FORMULA TO BE APPLIED IN CASES WHERE SURFACE DRAINAGE IS CONNECTED TO THE UTILITY’S SEWER SYSTEM

Whenever the utility has discovered that a customer’s roof drain, downspouts, storm sewer, or other similar facilities conducting surface water have been connected to the utility’s sewer system and such customer has failed to take appropriate action within thirty (30) days of receipt of a demand by the utility in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Public

Service Commission to eliminate such connection, a surcharge will be imposed upon the customer calculated on the basis of the following formula:

$$S = A \times R \times .0006233 \times C$$

- S = The surcharge in dollars.
- A = The area under roof and/or the area of any other water collection surface connected to the sanitary sewer, in square feet.
- R = The measured monthly rainfall, in inches.
- .0006233 = A conversion factor to change inches of rain x square feet of surface to thousands of gallons of water.
- C = The utility's approved rate per thousand gallons of metered water usage.

The utility shall not impose the surcharge unless and until the customer has been notified by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand delivery, that it has been established by smoke testing, dye testing, or on-site inspection that rain or other surface water is being introduced into the sanitary sewer system at the customer's location, and that the customer has not acted within thirty (30) days from receipt of such notice to divert the water from the sanitary sewer system.

Said surcharge shall be calculated and imposed for each month that said condition continues to exist. Failure to pay the surcharge and/or correct the situation shall give rise to the possible termination of water service in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia.

#### SURCHARGE FORMULA TO BE APPLIED TO A CUSTOMER PRODUCING UNUSUAL WASTE

The charge for the treatment of unusual waste will be calculated on the basis of the following formula:

$$C_i = V_o V_i + B_o B_i + S_o S_i$$

- $C_i$  = Charge to unusual users per year.
- $V_o$  = Average unit cost of transport and treatment chargeable to volume, in dollars per gallon.
- $V_i$  = Volume of wastewater from unusual users, in gallons per year.
- $B_o$  = Average unit cost of treatment, chargeable to biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) in dollars per pound.
- $B_i$  = Weight of BOD from unusual users in pounds per year.

So = Average unit cost of treatment (including sludge treatment) chargeable to total solids in dollars per pound.

Si = Weight of total solids from unusual users in pounds per year.

When an unusual user is to be served, a preliminary study of its wastes, and the cost of transport and treatment thereof, will be made. Waste containing materials which, in the judgment of the utility, should not be introduced into the sewer system, need not be handled by it. The results of this preliminary study will be used to determine the feasibility of the proposed sewer service and the charge therefore, based upon the formula set out above.

Thereafter, unusual sewage will be monitored on a regular basis and at the conclusion of each fiscal year, based on the investigation aforesaid and audit of the utility's records, new cost figures will be calculated for use in the above formula. The cost of establishing the monitoring facilities shall be paid by the unusual user. Based on these audited figures, additional billings covering the past fiscal year will be made for payment by each unusual user, or refund given by the utility, as the case may be. Such audited figures will then be used for the preliminary billing for the next fiscal year, at the end of which an adjustment will be made as aforesaid.

***Step 4***  
***(Effective January 1, 2027)***

**APPLICABILITY**

Applicable in the entire territory or area served.

**SECTION 1, SCHEDULE OF VOLUMETRIC RATES**

A. The rates and charges set out immediately below are effective for all sewerage delivered into the system.

**RATES**

Available for sanitary sewer service to domestic and industrial customers:

First	10,000 gallons used per month	\$20.17 per 1,000 gallons
Next	490,000 gallons used per month	\$18.32 per 1,000 gallons
All over	500,000 gallons used per month	\$12.05 per 1,000 gallons

**SERVICE TO OTHER SYSTEMS**

Available for sanitary sewer service to other systems:

Rate per metered gallons                      \$5.42 per 1,000 gallons

**MINIMUM MONTHLY CHARGE**

The minimum monthly charge to any user of the sewerage system shall be \$40.34.

**SECTION 2, ADDITIONAL CHARGES AND TERMS**

A. The rates and charges set out immediately below are effective for all sewerage delivered into the system.

INDUSTRIAL SURCHARGE RATES

Rate applicable to Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) concentration in excess of 240 mg/1.

Rate applicable to Total Suspended Solids (TSS) concentration in excess of 240 mg/1.

This surcharge will be based upon the following formulas applicable to users whose wastewaters are treated at the POTW:

- US = (BOD-240) (8.345) (\$0.21) Vu for 1 million gal. and over
- US = (SS-240) (8.345) (\$0.26) Vu for 1 million gal. and over
- US = (BOD-240) (8.345) (\$1.00/#BOD) for up to 1 million gal. and over
- US = (SS-240) (8.345) (\$1.00/#SS) for up to 1 million gal. and over

where

- US = User's surcharge per month in dollars
- BOD = Average measured BOD value of user's wastewater in mg/1
- SS = Average measured SS value of user's wastewater in mg/1
- Vu = Volume of user's monthly wastewater contribution in millions of gallons

\* The above formula reflect the current estimated operation and maintenance costs for treatment per pound of BOD and SS at the POTW. The factors affecting such cost may be reviewed by the Bluefield Sanitary Board and the above formulas revised to reflect revised operation and maintenance costs as required.

COMMODITY CHARGE

Each hauler shall pay a commodity charge of \$0.20 per gallon based on the volume of the tank whether partially full or full.

LEAK ADJUSTMENT RATE

\$5.00 per 1,000 gallons. To be used when the bill reflects unusual consumption which can be attributed to eligible water leakage on the customer's side of the meter. This rate shall be applied to all such unusual consumption above the customer's historical average usage for water that did not enter the sanitary sewer system. No adjustments will be made for leaks occurring in toilets and/or bidets.

DELAYED PAYMENT PENALTY

Ten percent (10%) penalty shall be added to all charges not paid within twenty (20) days from the date of the billing. This delayed payment penalty is not interest and is only to be collected once for each bill where it is appropriate.

UNMETERED USERS

In locations where the customer has no water meter, charges for sewer service shall be assessed based upon 4,500 gallons of water usage for residential customers per month.

TAP OR CONNECTION FEE

The following charges are to be made whenever the utility installs a new tap to serve an applicant:

A tap fee of \$200.00 will be charged to all customers applying for service before construction on standard or alternate main line extensions or certificate projects. This pre-construction tap fee will be invalid after completion of construction of the standard or alternate main line extension or certificate project.

A tap fee of \$500.00 or the actual cost, solely determined by the Utility, will be charged to all customers who apply for service outside of a standard or alternate main line extension or certificate project.

WATER DISCONNECT-RECONNECT FEES

Whenever water service has been disconnected for nonpayment of sewer bills, a sewer service disconnection fee of \$20.00 shall be charged.

Whenever water service which has been previously disconnected, or otherwise withheld for nonpayment of sewer bill, is reconnected, a reconnection fee of \$20.00 shall be charged.

MUNICIPAL EXCISE TAX SURCHARGE

The municipality listed below, having imposed a public utility tax computed on the basis of two percent of revenues from sewer service sales by the sewer utility within the corporate limits of such municipalities, shall be billed as a “surcharge” to the customers receiving service within said corporate limits.

The sewer utility is required to collect the utility tax pursuant to West Virginia Code Section 8-13-5a.

Customers receiving sewer service within the corporate limits of the specified municipality shall pay the following surcharge rates.

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Utility Excise Tax, Local Tax Rate</u>	<u>Surcharge Rate</u>
Bluefield, WV	2%	2%

RETURNED CHECK CHARGE

If a check received is returned by the bank for any reasons, the bank’s charge to the Bluefield Sanitary Board shall be the charge to the customer, but such charge to the customer shall not exceed \$35.00.

SECURITY DEPOSIT

New customers or customers to a new location must pay the Bluefield Sanitary Board’s security deposit and present a receipt for payment of the security deposit to the water utility serving the new customer before water service can be provided. A security deposit not to exceed two-twelfths (2/12) of the annual estimated charge for the class of customer served shall be charged to new customers and reconnected customers of the sewerage system of the City of Bluefield throughout the entire territory served.



BILL REPRINT FEE

A charge of \$1.00 will be assessed to customers who do not present the bar coded section of the bill provided by the Bluefield Sanitary Board.

EFT, CREDIT CARD AND DROP BOX PAYMENTS

A service charge may be imposed on electronic funds transfer, ACH, credit card or drop box payments equal to the actual charges from the financial institution to the Bluefield Sanitary Board.

SURCHARGE FORMULA TO BE APPLIED IN CASES WHERE SURFACE DRAINAGE IS CONNECTED TO THE UTILITY’S SEWER SYSTEM

Whenever the utility has discovered that a customer’s roof drain, downspouts, storm sewer, or other similar facilities conducting surface water have been connected to the utility’s sewer system and such customer has failed to take appropriate action within thirty (30) days of receipt of a demand by the utility in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Public Service Commission to eliminate such connection, a surcharge will be imposed upon the customer calculated on the basis of the following formula:

$$S = A \times R \times .0006233 \times C$$

- S = The surcharge in dollars.
- A = The area under roof and/or the area of any other water collection surface connected to the sanitary sewer, in square feet.
- R = The measured monthly rainfall, in inches.
- .0006233 = A conversion factor to change inches of rain x square feet of surface to thousands of gallons of water.
- C = The utility’s approved rate per thousand gallons of metered water usage.

The utility shall not impose the surcharge unless and until the customer has been notified by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by hand delivery, that it has been established by smoke testing, dye testing, or on-site inspection that rain or other surface water is being introduced into the sanitary sewer system at the customer’s location, and that the customer has not acted within thirty (30) days from receipt of such notice to divert the water from the sanitary sewer system.

Said surcharge shall be calculated and imposed for each month that said condition continues to exist. Failure to pay the surcharge and/or correct the situation shall give rise to the possible termination of water service in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia.

SURCHARGE FORMULA TO BE APPLIED TO A CUSTOMER PRODUCING UNUSUAL WASTE

The charge for the treatment of unusual waste will be calculated on the basis of the following formula:

$$C_i = V_o V_i + B_o B_i + S_o S_i$$

- C<sub>i</sub> = Charge to unusual users per year.
- V<sub>o</sub> = Average unit cost of transport and treatment chargeable to volume, in dollars per gallon.
- V<sub>i</sub> = Volume of wastewater from unusual users, in gallons per year.
- B<sub>o</sub> = Average unit cost of treatment, chargeable to biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) in dollars per pound.
- B<sub>i</sub> = Weight of BOD from unusual users in pounds per year.
- S<sub>o</sub> = Average unit cost of treatment (including sludge treatment) chargeable to total solids in dollars per pound.
- S<sub>i</sub> = Weight of total solids from unusual users in pounds per year.

When an unusual user is to be served, a preliminary study of its wastes, and the cost of transport and treatment thereof, will be made. Waste containing materials which, in the judgment of the utility, should not be introduced into the sewer system, need not be handled by it. The results of this preliminary study will be used to determine the feasibility of the proposed sewer service and the charge therefore, based upon the formula set out above.

Thereafter, unusual sewage will be monitored on a regular basis and at the conclusion of each fiscal year, based on the investigation aforesaid and audit of the utility's records, new cost figures will be calculated for use in the above formula. The cost of establishing the monitoring facilities shall be paid by the unusual user. Based on these audited figures, additional billings covering the past fiscal year will be made for payment by each unusual user, or refund given by the utility, as the case may be. Such audited figures will then be used for the preliminary billing for the next fiscal year, at the end of which an adjustment will be made as aforesaid.

*Step 5*  
*(Effective January 1, 2028)*

APPLICABILITY

Applicable in the entire territory or area served.

SECTION 1, SCHEDULE OF VOLUMETRIC RATES

A. The rates and charges set out immediately below are effective for all sewerage delivered into the system.



### COMMODITY CHARGE

Each hauler shall pay a commodity charge of \$0.20 per gallon based on the volume of the tank whether partially full or full.

### LEAK ADJUSTMENT RATE

\$5.00 per 1,000 gallons. To be used when the bill reflects unusual consumption which can be attributed to eligible water leakage on the customer's side of the meter. This rate shall be applied to all such unusual consumption above the customer's historical average usage for water that did not enter the sanitary sewer system. No adjustments will be made for leaks occurring in toilets and/or bidets.

### DELAYED PAYMENT PENALTY

Ten percent (10%) penalty shall be added to all charges not paid within twenty (20) days from the date of the billing. This delayed payment penalty is not interest and is only to be collected once for each bill where it is appropriate.

### UNMETERED USERS

In locations where the customer has no water meter, charges for sewer service shall be assessed based upon 4,500 gallons of water usage for residential customers per month.

### TAP OR CONNECTION FEE

The following charges are to be made whenever the utility installs a new tap to serve an applicant:

A tap fee of \$200.00 will be charged to all customers applying for service before construction on standard or alternate main line extensions or certificate projects. This pre-construction tap fee will be invalid after completion of construction of the standard or alternate main line extension or certificate project.

A tap fee of \$500.00 or the actual cost, solely determined by the Utility, will be charged to all customers who apply for service outside of a standard or alternate main line extension or certificate project.

### WATER DISCONNECT-RECONNECT FEES

Whenever water service has been disconnected for nonpayment of sewer bills, a sewer service disconnection fee of \$20.00 shall be charged.

Whenever water service which has been previously disconnected, or otherwise withheld for nonpayment of sewer bill, is reconnected, a reconnection fee of \$20.00 shall be charged.

### MUNICIPAL EXCISE TAX SURCHARGE

The municipality listed below, having imposed a public utility tax computed on the basis of two percent of revenues from sewer service sales by the sewer utility within the corporate limits of such municipalities, shall be billed as a "surcharge" to the customers receiving service within said corporate limits.

The sewer utility is required to collect the utility tax pursuant to West Virginia Code Section 8-13-5a.

Customers receiving sewer service within the corporate limits of the specified municipality shall pay the following surcharge rates.

<u>Municipality</u>	<u>Utility Excise Tax, Local Tax Rate</u>	<u>Surcharge Rate</u>
Bluefield, WV	2%	2%

#### RETURNED CHECK CHARGE

If a check received is returned by the bank for any reasons, the bank's charge to the Bluefield Sanitary Board shall be the charge to the customer, but such charge to the customer shall not exceed \$35.00.

#### SECURITY DEPOSIT

New customers or customers to a new location must pay the Bluefield Sanitary Board's security deposit and present a receipt for payment of the security deposit to the water utility serving the new customer before water service can be provided. A security deposit not to exceed two-twelfths (2/12) of the annual estimated charge for the class of customer served shall be charged to new customers and reconnected customers of the sewerage system of the City of Bluefield throughout the entire territory served.

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$$S = A \times R \times .0006233 \times C$$

S = The surcharge in dollars.

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**SECTION 2 – TARIFF EFFECTIVE DATE**

The rates, charges and penalties provided herein shall become effective as provided herein.

**SECTION 3 – SEVERABILITY; REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES**

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and if any clause, provision or section hereof shall be held void or unenforceable by the West Virginia Public Service Commission or any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance. Upon the effective date hereof, all ordinances, resolutions, orders or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflicts, hereby repealed, and to the extent that the provisions of this Ordinance do not touch upon the provisions of prior ordinances, resolutions, orders or parts thereof, the same shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 4 – STATUTORY NOTICE AND PUBLIC HEARING**

Upon introduction hereof, the City shall cause to be published notice of this Ordinance once in a qualified newspaper of general circulation in the City of Bluefield, and said notice shall state that this Ordinance has been introduced, and that any person interested may appear before the Board of Directors on July 9, 2024, at 11 a.m., which date is not less than five (5) days after the date of the publication of the Ordinance and notice, and present any comment or protest thereto, following which hearing, Council shall take such action as it shall deem proper. Copies of this Ordinance shall be available to the public for inspection at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 200 Rogers Street, Bluefield, West Virginia.

First Reading: May 28, 2024

Second Reading  
and Public Hearing: July 9, 2024

CITY OF BLUEFIELD, a municipal corporation

Mayor: 

Clerk: 