



A recent article in the Cape Gazette compared the City of Rehoboth’s proposed water and sewer rates to that of the Lewes Board of Public Works’ (BPW). It indicated Rehoboth’s new rates would be less than the BPW’s. It appears the usage assumed for the comparison in the article, was significantly below the normal average usage. Assuming the BPW’s actual average usage rates, the BPW’s annual cost for water would be significantly less and our sewer costs would be essentially the same, for most customers.

The article’s comparison assumed an average annual residential usage of 20,000 gallons per year (gpy), which is an average of 55 gallons per day (gpd) per household. According to US Geologic Survey (<https://water.usgs.gov/edu/qa-home-percapita.html>), the average water usage in America is 80 to 100 gallons per day (gpd) per person, or 160 to 200 gpd (58,000 to 73,000 gallons per year (gpy)) for a two person household. The actual average residential usage in the BPW’s service area is approximately 48,000 (gpy).

The BPW also assumes that not all the water used would enter to the sewer system. It therefore assumes the sewer usage to be only 80% of the water usage.

Assuming 48,000 gallons of annual water usage, the annual costs would be as follows for the average customer.

AVERAGE ANNUAL COSTS (Assuming 48,000 gpy)

Water	Rehoboth (1" meter)	¹ BPW (5/8" Meter)	BPW (1" Meter)
Fixed Cost	\$ 42.00	\$ 192.00	\$ 243.00
Usage Cost	² \$ 302.40	³ \$ 57.12	\$ 57.12
Total Annual Cost	\$ 344.40	\$ 249.12	\$ 300.12

Sewer

Sewer	Rehoboth (1" meter)	BPW (5/8" Meter)	BPW (1" Meter)
Fixed Cost	\$ 125.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 763.80
Usage Cost	⁴ \$ 705.60	⁵ \$ 215.40	\$ 215.40
Total Annual Cost	\$ 830.60	\$ 815.40	\$ 979.20

¹ Meter size for most BPW residential customers

² At a proposed rate of \$6.30/1000 gallons

³ At existing BPW rate of \$1.19/1000 gallons

⁴ At a proposed rate of \$14.70/1000 gallons

⁵ At existing BPW rate of \$5.61/1000 gallons