



Colchester Sewer and Water Commission

Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024

Operating Budgets

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The Colchester Sewer and Water Commission will hold a Public Hearing to present and gather public comment on the proposed budget for the 2023/2024 Fiscal Year including proposed rate schedules on Wednesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Colchester Town Hall and/or Virtual Zoom Meeting

Colchester Sewer and Water Commission FY 2023 -2024 Budget in Brief

The Town is behind schedule adopting adjusted budget/rates in Fiscal Year 23-24. This was due to the Sewer & Water Commission having difficulty meeting due to changes in its personnel and inability to have a quorum to hold meetings.

The bills that were sent out in October or December were billed on the FY 22-23 rates. However, the material costs and the amount owed to the Joint Facility for our sewage usage has increased from the previous FY 22-23. Due to these increases, and in an attempt to offset their cost, the Sewer & Water Commission has voted to increase the rates in town for the remaining 2 quarters of billing in Fiscal Year 23-24.

Please note that this increase for FY 23-24 is late, the Sewer and Water Commission is also developing and voting on the rates for next year, FY 24-25. Given material pricing trends and the capital funding shortfalls for asset maintenance, the FY 23-24 will likely see an additional increase in FY 24-25.

The initial increase planned and voted upon in the Spring of 2023 was 6.5% for both water and sewer. This increase also had additional \$5 applied to the base rate quarterly charges. In the fall of 2023, the Sewer and Water Commission revisited the increase and voted to reduce the increase from 6.5% for both water and sewer to 3.4% for water and 4% for sewer. The rates enclosed in this document reflect that increase. **Due to the late adoption of these rates (it applies to only ½ of the year) the effective annual increase is 1.7% for water and 2% sewer.**

As Director of Public Works, I have personally reviewed the water and sewer rates in many other Connecticut towns and have compared them with the rates in Colchester. While not all towns are the same, my research has shown Colchester's revised FY 23-24 rates to be very competitive and fair:

- For a residential 1" water service, the 83 towns/utility regions surveyed were 119% more expensive than Colchester per quarter and 13% more expensive than Colchester per 1000 gal.
- For a residential 1" sewer service, the 28 towns/utility regions surveyed were 28% less expensive than Colchester per 1000 gal. 25/28 towns charge an average service charge of \$62.75 per quarter, where Colchester does not.

Based upon some aspects unique to Fiscal Year 23-24; net gain personnel changes, lower electricity usage trends, and other factors this budget looks like it will balance, and we will be able to get through the remainder of this year without major overruns.

Capital Projects that are taking place this year are:

- Upgrading storage tank/filter plant computerized communication (SCADA)
- Redevelopment of Well 5A including new pump/piping
- Painting of the 40' Storage tank on Elmwood Heights

In my short time here, I have already made it a personal commitment of mine to make our billing easier to understand, our communication more regular, and our payment methods more accessible. If you have concerns regarding your water and sewer service here in Colchester, please attend one of our Sewer & Water Commission Meetings on the last Wednesday of each month. Please see the town calendar for exact dates and location.

Thank you,

Joseph Leone, EIT, M.Ed
Director of Public Works
Direct: (860) 537-7286

PROPOSED USAGE RATES
COLCHESTER SEWER AND WATER COMMISSION
2023 - 2024 FISCAL YEAR

Residential-Use Rates

	Annual increase:	1.70%	2.00%
Increase for April & July Billing due to late adoption of revised rates:		3.40%	4.00%

(thousands of gallons)	Existing <u>Water</u>	Existing <u>Sewer</u>	New <u>Water</u>	New <u>Sewer</u>
Serv Charge per qtr.	\$ 43.17	\$ -	\$ 44.64	\$ -
0 to 10	\$ 8.12	\$ 8.97	\$ 8.40	\$ 9.33
10 to 20	\$ 8.44	\$ 9.08	\$ 8.73	\$ 9.44
20 plus	\$ 10.80	\$ 9.38	\$ 11.17	\$ 9.76

Commercial-Use Rates

	Existing <u>Water Rate</u>	Existing <u>Sewer Rate</u>	New <u>Water Rate</u>	New <u>Sewer Rate</u>
Service charge, per quarter (Includes up to 20,000 Gal. use)				
3/4 in. meter	\$ 217.41	\$181.06	\$ 224.80	\$ 188.30
1 in. meter	\$ 218.65	\$181.06	\$ 226.08	\$ 188.30
1-1/2 in. meter	\$ 220.34	\$181.06	\$ 227.83	\$ 188.30
2 in. meter	\$ 224.96	\$181.06	\$ 232.61	\$ 188.30
3 in. meter	\$ 259.00	\$181.06	\$ 267.81	\$ 188.30
4 in. meter	\$ 271.61	\$181.06	\$ 280.84	\$ 188.30
6 in. meter	\$ 301.02	\$181.06	\$ 311.25	\$ 188.30
8 in. meter	\$ 334.66	\$181.06	\$ 346.04	\$ 188.30
Over 20,000 Gal. use	\$8.40 per 1,000 gals	\$9.06 per 1,000 gals	\$8.69 per 1,000 gals	\$9.42 per 1,000 gals

Private Fire Service:

	Existing <u>Water Rate</u>	New <u>Water Rate</u>
Up to 4 in.	\$24.13 per quarter	\$ 85.00 per quarter
4 in.	\$145.29 per quarter	\$ 308.02 per quarter
6 in.	\$422.36 per quarter	\$ 589.50 per quarter
8 in.	\$899.77 per quarter	\$ 1,179.06 per quarter
10 in.	\$1,618.22 per quarter	\$ 1,843.21 per quarter

**Town of Colchester
Sewer and Water Commission**

Proposed Water and Sewer Connection Fees

(approved Colchester Sewer and Water Commission on 2-11-1999, revised and approved **TBD 3-19-24**)
 (approved Colchester Board of Selectmen on 3-11-1999, revised and approved **TBD 3-21-24**)
 (Updated to reflect approved Fire Sprinkler charges and material cost increases – **TBD 3-21-24**)

Proposed Change Effective 4-1-2024

The listed connection fees will be charged in accordance with the Colchester Sewer and Water Commission “Sewer and Water Service Connection Policy”. In accordance with the policy, sewer and water connection fees shall be assessed based on the size of the customer’s meter or service size (whichever is less), as shown below:

Water and Sewer Service

Water Meter Size (in.)	Water Branch Size (in.)	Exist Water Fee	Prop. Water Fee	Exist Sewer Fee	Prop. Sewer Fee
¾ or less	1	\$ 3,650	\$4,000	\$ 1,500	\$2,500
1	1-1/2	\$ 8,750	\$9,000	\$ 3,750	\$4,240
1-1/2	2	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$ 7,100	\$7,500
2	4	\$31,970	\$32,000	\$14,200	\$14,500

Meters in excess of two (2) inches and/or connections, services, or branches, in excess of three (3) inches shall be reviewed and assessed individually based on demand capacity at the rate of \$11.45 per 1,000 gpd water and/or \$7.96 per 1,000 gpd sewer. However, in no case will the charges be less than those for a two (2) inch meter or three (3 inch) service.

Fire Sprinkler Connections

Customers with separate fire service or fire service connections shall pay a separate quarterly fee for such service at the rates shown below:

<u>Fire Service Size (in.)</u>	<u>Quarterly Fee</u>
Less than 4 in.	\$ 85.00
4 in.	\$ 308.02
6 in.	\$ 589.50
8 in.	\$ 1,179.06
10 in.	\$ 1,8434.21
12 in. or greater	to be reviewed and assessed individually

Existing Laterals

Laterals already in place and paid for by the Town (Commission), shall be charged to the property owner at an additional rate of \$1,000 for each water or sewer lateral above the connection fee at the time of connection.

Separation of Service

Active services existing at the time of adoption of this fee schedule, which are subsequently separated into multiple metered units, shall be charged a “Separation of Service” fee of \$200 per service (water or sewer) plus the cost of all Town-supplied labor and materials. Services which are constructed and separated subsequent to adoption of this fee schedule shall pay the applicable rate per meter (Section 4D of Sewer and Water Service Connection Policy) less any connection fees previously paid.

Service Fees

Construction Fees

On site work

hourly rate \$ 125.00 7:00AM to 3:30PM - Monday-Friday except holidays
\$ 250.00 all other times

New Water Main Flush \$ 500.00 2 operators for 2 hours
water charged at \$100 per 1,000 gallons u

Pressure and Leakage Test \$ 350.00

Chlorination of new water main \$ 350.00

Inspection of new water main

Water Construction Inspection Fee \$ 200.00

Sewer Construction Inspection Fee \$ 200.00

Office Processing:

Water Application Fee \$ 200.00

Sewer Application Fee \$ 200.00

Water Adbandonment Application Fee \$ 200.00

Sewer Adbandonment Application Fee \$ 200.00

Water service line repair permit \$ 200.00

Sewer service line repair permit \$ 200.00

Infrastructure connection - per unit cost one inch pipe

Sewer connection \$ 2,500.00

Water connection \$ 4,000.00

Fire Sprinkler connection - per building cost two inch pipe

Water connection \$ 16,000.00

Fire Sprinkler connection - per building cost four inch pipe

Water connection \$ 32,000.00

Fire Sprinkler connection - per building cost six inch pipe

Water connection \$ 48,000.00

Other

Hydrant Meter \$ 2,000.00

monthly rental \$ 120.00

Materials: (Price determined at time of order)

Curb Box \$ 100.00

1" Corp \$ 150.00

Meter Setter \$ 500.00

Cost per foot \$ 20.00

1" Tap \$ 1,200.00

2" tap \$ 1,600.00

		per device tested while on site doing cross connection inspection Otherwise 1 hr service call rate is added to device testing fee
Device Testing	\$ 55.00	

Multiple units on one meter

Commerical Buildings	\$ 10.00	Note - new buildings require individual meters per billing cycle
Residential	\$ 10.00	per additional unit in building with only one meter

Lien/Caveat fee

Lien Recording	\$ 80.00
Caveat Recording	\$ 80.00
Release Recording	\$ 80.00

Profile of Water consumption

Free	One profile within a 12 month period
\$ 125.00	Additional profiles within a 12 month period

Delivered Water

	delivery truck
\$ 87.00	per truckload under 6,000 gallons

Misc Charges

Late fee		1.5% per month
Returned Ck fee	\$ 35.00	
Fat Oil & Grease Permit	\$ 100.00	
Account Activation Fee	\$ 50.00	
Temporary Account fee	\$ 20.00	
Final reading invoice	\$ 25.00	
Hydrant Repairs	\$ 400.00	
Hydrant Raising	\$ 400.00	private customers hydrants
Fire Hydrant valve	\$ 10.00	per hydrant per year to Colchester (approx 400 hydrants)

Service Fees

Construction Fees

On site work

hourly rate \$ 125.00 7:00AM to 3:30PM - Monday-Friday except holidays
\$ 250.00 all other times

New Water Main Flush This fee is for two Operators for two hours of work.
Water consumed is charged at \$9.00 per thousand gallons
Pressure and Leakage Test A Water dept. employee witnesses the results and verifies the third party contractor
Chlorination of new water main A Water dept. employee witnesses the results and verifies the third party contractor
Inspection of new water main Pays for a Water dept. employee visit for on site inspection.
Water Construction Inspection Fee Pays for an operator lateral inspection. Includes up to one hour of time. Additional time is billed in half hour increments at the current service call rate.
Sewer Construction Inspection Fee Pays for an operator lateral inspection. Includes up to one hour of time. Additional time is billed in half hour increments at the current service call rate.

Sewer Construction Inspection Fee

Office Processing:

Water Application Fee Processing of the application.
Sewer Application Fee Processing of the application.
Water Adbandonment Application Fee Processing of the application.
Sewer Adbandonment Application Fee Processing of the application.
Temporary Account fee A landlord or property manager holds an account between tenants

Infrastructure connection

Sewer connection This connection fee pays for the construction and maintenance of the sewer system infrastructure.
Water connection This connection fee pays for the construction and maintenance of the water system infrastructure.

Other

Hydrant Meter This is a deposit to cover expenses incurred to replace equipment. Water is also billed at \$9.00 per thousand gallons.
monthly rental Rental fee charged monthly.
Materials: Material costs are examined at the time of the order. They can change, depending on the market cost of copper.
Curb Box black box that sticks up out of the ground
1" Corp fitting that is drilled into the water main
Meter Setter double check valve and a master valve that connects to the lateral
Cost per foot copper prices are volatile
1" Tap process of drilling the water main for the corp insert and lateral
2" tap process of drilling the water main for the corp insert and lateral

2023-2024 Fiscal Year Sewer and Water Comm. Operating Budget

1.7% Increase

EXPENSE	21/22 Actual BUDGET	22/23 ACTUAL BUDGET	23/24 PROPOSED BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
WATER OPERATING				
4003210 40101 Regular Payroll	\$ 311,542	\$ 338,119	\$ 344,119	\$ 6,000
4003210 40103 Overtime	\$ 39,868	\$ 40,936	\$ 48,394.82	\$ 7,459
4003210 40105 Contr Temp Occas	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4003210 40106 Misc Payroll	\$ 9,100	\$ 9,100	\$ 9,100.00	\$ -
4003210 41210 Employee Related Insurance 4	\$ 76,456	\$ 63,297	\$ 67,866	\$ 4,569
4003210 41230 FICA & Pension	\$ 49,560	\$ 55,363	\$ 32,143	\$ (23,220)
4003210 42301 Office Supplies	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,400	\$ 100
4003210 42323 Prot Clothing & Safety Equipment	\$ 2,609	\$ 2,892	\$ 3,301	\$ 409
4003210 42340 Operating Supplies	\$ 60,076	\$ 78,943	\$ 97,763	\$ 18,820
4003210 43213 Travel Training & Meetings	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 500
4003210 43258 Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 10,495	\$ 10,636	\$ 10,698	\$ 62
4003210 44203 Legal	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -
4003210 44206 Municipal Insurance	\$ 18,833	\$ 19,435	\$ 19,435	\$ -
4003210 44208 Professional Services	\$ 21,250	\$ 66,750	\$ 95,400	\$ 28,650
4003210 44217 Postage	\$ 3,500	\$ 5,100	\$ 5,525	\$ 425
4003210 44223 Service Contracts	\$ 17,105	\$ 17,305	\$ 20,698	\$ 3,393
4003210 44231 Advertising	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -
4003210 44238 Uniform Rentals	\$ 1,735	\$ 1,912	\$ 1,912	\$ -
4003210 44244 Refunds for Overpayments	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ -
4003210 44255 Refunds for Tax or Liens	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ -
4003210 44262 Audit	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 500
4003210 44285 Lab Fees	\$ 9,137	\$ 24,936	\$ 21,338	\$ (3,598)
4003210 45216 Telephone	\$ 6,720	\$ 8,628	\$ 7,914	\$ (714)
4003210 45221 Fuel/Heating	\$ 11,200	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,525	\$ 525
4003210 45622 Electric	\$ 95,000	\$ 100,750	\$ 100,750	\$ -
4003210 46224 Equipment Repairs	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -
4003210 46226 Building Repairs	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -
4003210 46390 Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
4003210 48404 Machinery & Equipment	\$ 1,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -
4003210 48416 Office Equipment	\$ 600	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
4003210 49245 Bond Principal	\$ 131,916	\$ 134,740	\$ 137,625	\$ 2,885
4003210 49246 Bond Interest	\$ 19,870	\$ 17,046	\$ 14,162	\$ (2,884)
4003210 49247 Bond Issuance Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4003210 50700 Transfers Out to Debt Service	\$ 13,580		\$ 13,580	\$ 13,580
4003210 50474 Transfers Out to Capital Reserve	\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 45,000	\$ (55,000)
4003210 50500 Transfers to Capital Projects	\$ 205,000	\$ 13,580	\$ 31,790	\$ 18,210
4003210 50900 Contingency	\$ 19,186	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -
4003210 90800 Depreciation - Buidings			\$ -	\$ -
4003210 91800 Depreciation - Machinery & Equipment			\$ -	\$ -
4003210 92800 Depreciation - Infrastructure			\$ -	\$ -
4003210 93800 Depreciation - Improvements			\$ -	\$ -
4003210 99999 GAAP Audit Adjustment			\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 1,171,988.00	\$ 1,194,118	\$ 1,214,787	\$ 20,669

	\$22,130	\$ 20,669
	1.9%	1.7%

2023-2024 Fiscal Year Sewer and Water Comm. Operating Budget 2.0% Increase

<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>21/22 ACTUAL</u>	<u>22/23 APPROVED BUDGET</u>	<u>23/24 PROPOSED BUDGET</u>	<u>DIFFERENCE</u>
SEWER OPERATING				
2403207 40101 Regular Payroll	\$ 78,860	\$ 88,003	\$ 91,732	\$ 3,729
2403207 40102 Other Regular & Part Time Payroll	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
2403207 40103 Overtime		\$ -	\$ -	
2403207 40105 Misc Payroll			\$ 4,550	\$ 4,550
2403207 41210 Employee Related Insurance	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 16,500	\$ 10,534	\$ (5,966)
2403207 41230 FICA & Pension	\$ 13,140.00	\$ 13,049	\$ 10,556	\$ (2,493)
2403207 42301 Office Supplies	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600	\$ -
2403207 42323 Prot Clothing & Safety Equipment	\$ 652.00	\$ 723	\$ 880	\$ 157
2403207 42340 Operating Supplies	\$ 47,852.00	\$ 60,000	\$ 18,520	\$ (41,480)
2403207 43213 Travel, Training & Meetings	\$ 100.00	\$ 100	\$ 300	\$ 200
2403207 42358 Dues & Subscriptions			\$ 345	\$ 345
2403207 44203 Legal	\$ 250.00	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -
2403207 44206 Municipal Insurance	\$ 18,833.00	\$ 19,435	\$ 21,721	\$ 2,286
2403207 44208 Professional Services			\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
2403207 44217 Postage	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 500
2403207 44223 Service Contracts	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 6,806	\$ 13,626	\$ 6,820
2403207 44231 Advertising	\$ 100.00	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ -
2403207 44238 Uniform Rentals	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 319	\$ 319
2403207 44244 Refunds for Overpayment	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
2403207 44255 Refunds for Tax or Liens	\$ 250.00	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ -
2403207 44262 Audit	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,025	\$ 6,513	\$ 488
2403207 44268 Joint Sewer Facility Personnel	\$ 126,251.00	\$ 128,628	\$ 134,882	\$ 6,254
2403207 45216 Telephone	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 600	\$ 780	\$ 180
2403207 45221 Fuel/Heating	\$ 1,695.00	\$ 3,503	\$ 3,626	\$ 123
2403207 45622 Electric	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 79,800	\$ 79,800	\$ -
2403207 46224 Equipment Repairs	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ (5,000)
2403207 46224 BLDG Repairs			\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
2403207 46269 Joint Sewer Facility Maintenance	\$ 823,041.00	\$ 854,563	\$ 893,364	\$ 38,801
2403207 48404 Vehicle Repair			\$ 750	\$ 750
2403207 48404 Machinery & Equipment	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 18,000	\$ 6,000	\$ (12,000)
2403207 48416 Office Equipment	\$ 200.00	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
2403207 50413 Transfers Out to General Fund			\$ -	\$ -
2403207 50474 Transfers Out to Capital Reserve		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2403207 50500 Transfers to Capital Project	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
2403207 50900 Contingency	\$ -	\$ 6,708	\$ 6,854	\$ 146
			\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 1,244,024.00	\$ 1,327,143.00	\$ 1,353,850	\$ 26,707

\$83,119
6.7%

\$ 26,707
2.0%