

Inside this Newsletter

2 Visa/Master Card

Payments being accepted for these credit cards only at walk-in window.

3 LBCJMA to Refinance Bonds

4 Miscellaneous Charges

RATE ADJUSTMENT

At a recent LBCJMA meeting of the Board of Directors the existing rate structure was modified to better reflect actual cost of services.

In 1985 the charge for water excess was \$1.19 per 1,000 gallons and the charge for sewer excess was \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons. Excess is that charge for water consumption and sewer discharge above the minimum allowance, which in 1985 was 13,000 gallons per quarter. In 1990 the minimum allowance was adjusted from 13,000 gallons to 10,000 gallons per quarter, which for a customer using 21,000 gallons, increased their water bill by \$3.57. At the same time in 1990, the sewer minimum charge was increased from \$22.00 to \$27.00 per quarter. The same customer, using 21,000 gallons saw an increase in their sewer bill of \$19.50 or a total combined quarterly increase of \$23.07. These costs have held firm for approximately eight years.

During that period of time, 1990 to 1998, operating costs have increased an average of 3% a year. It is noteworthy that our 1998 projected expenses are \$19,295 less than 1997 budgeted expenses, and actual expenditures

during 1997 were approximately \$300,000 less than budgeted for that year, exclusive of depreciation. In addition to normal operating expenses for personnel, energy, chemicals, sludge hauling and disposal, insurance and other professional services, the Authority must provide for annual capital maintenance, which for 1998 is budgeted at \$650,000.

Capital maintenance includes such items as replacement vehicles, large motor rewinds, pumps, replacement meters, grounds maintenance equipment, computer equipment and programming, extraordinary repairs to sewage pumping stations, office equipment, etc. Funds for these items have been segregated from normal operating funds and have now been totally depleted.

There also are needed major capital improvements such as a flow equalization diversion chamber and 2 centrifuges which, when completed, will substantially impact our energy costs. Also required is the completion of the upgrading of the 45 year old electrical system at the Water Filtration Plant, a new sludge holding tank, an interconnection of our water system with our neighboring former Bristol Borough system, and the demolition of 2 obsolete elevated water storage tanks. New pumps, switch gear and an emergency generator are needed at the Art Carney Pump Station in the Twin Oaks section as well as increasing the size of the force mains to alleviate flooding of the station and to conform to a DEP mandate. These, along with other projects, require a borrowing of \$6,500,000.

LOWER BUCKS COUNTY JOINT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

RATE from page 1

In order to accommodate these needs the Board of Directors, on March 2, 1998, approved a rate adjustment affecting only charges for excess water and sewerage use. Customers paying the minimum bill of \$42.50 per quarter (\$45.12 for those with garbage disposal units) will not be affected. Excess charges will go from \$1.19 to \$1.55 for water and from \$1.50 to \$2.70 for sewer; all charges are per 1,000 gallons. The total increase per quarter for a customer using an average of 21,000 gallons of water will be \$17.16 which is approximately \$6.00 less than was experienced at the time of the last rate adjustment, eight years ago.

The adjustment, for those customers affected, will be reflected with the bills issued on and after July 1, 1998.

Even after the rate adjustment, for customers using 21,000 gallons per quarter, the Authority has the lowest water rates and is in total second only to Bristol Township, by \$1.63, as shown in the comparative listing below:

	WATER	SEWER	TOTAL
Bensalem	\$73.20	\$109.80	\$183.00
Morrisville	91.82	64.95	156.77
Middletown	53.53	76.00	129.53
Bristol Boro	47.72	54.01	101.73
LBCJMA	32.55	56.70	89.25
Bristol.Twp.	47.72	39.90	87.62

VISA/MASTER CARD

Customers who pay at the window may now do so with Visa/Master Card. This service has been available for the past year and is offered as a convenience for those customers who prefer paying their bills with one of these credit cards. From

time to time these credit card companies offer rewards for using them and your water and sewer bills afford another opportunity to cash in on them. Presently there are no plans to accept credit card payments by mail or phone.

NO COINS PLEASE!!!

Occasionally customers come to the window with a bag full of coins to pay their water and/or sewer bill. This is very time consuming and can delay other customers waiting to pay their bills. It also consumes extra time when preparing the daily bank deposits, as well as when making the deposit. We ask your consideration by making your payments by either check or bills. Thank you.

NEW AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBER

On March 2, 1998 the Board of Directors welcomed Bryan Servis as its newest member. Mr. Servis was appointed by Tullytown Borough Council to replace David Caro, an interim appointee, whose term expired on December 31, 1997. Mr. Servis was appointed for a 5 year term.

In other business, at this meeting the Board appointed its officers for the year as follows:

Anna Rogers	Chair
Edward Czyzyk	Vice Chair
Bryan Servis	Secretary
John Monahan	Treasurer
Anthony Verduci	Asst. Secretary
Edmund Armstrong	Asst. Treasurer

The Board of Directors hold their monthly meetings at the Authority's main office located at 7811 New Falls Road, Levittown, Pennsylvania, on the 4th Monday of every month

beginning at 7:00 P.M.

IN MEMORIUM

During the past year the Authority was saddened by the death of two of its employees and two former Board Members. Barry Barnes, age 42, an employee at the Water Filtration Plant died on June 15, 1997. Barry had been an employee of the Authority for 4 years. Charles "Bill" Trimble, age 65, an employee at the Wastewater Treatment Plant died on December 23, 1997. Bill was an employee for 40 years and had just begun his retirement. Alice Demi, age 69, died on February 16, 1998. Alice served on the Board from 1988 to 1992. William Huhn, age 75, died on December 5, 1997. Bill served on the Board from 1992 to 1995. All are sadly missed.

GREASE IS STILL NUMBER ONE ENEMY

One of the most frightening sounds a homeowner can hear, after fire, is an unexplained gurgling sound coming from one or more of your drains. This can be the pressure of raw sewage backing up into your home. Whenever you hear such a sound or if your toilet and other drains do not drain properly, you should immediately call **946-0731** to report it. An early call and timely response can prevent, or at least minimize, damage and inconvenience.

The number one cause of sewer back-ups is grease. In spite of an ongoing preventive maintenance program of televising, and cleaning, we still have occasions where sewage backs up into homes and lawns because of the build up of grease in the lines.

continued on page 3

LOWER BUCKS COUNTY JOINT MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Residents are urged to please refrain from pouring grease down their drains. Even if you wash it down with very hot water, once it reaches the cold pipes in the ground it begins to coagulate and build up. Grease should be collected in metal containers, such as a coffee can, and disposed of with your trash.

Often sewer back-ups occur because of a blockage in the sewer lateral which runs from the home to the sewer main. When this occurs it is entirely the responsibility of the homeowner. Homeowners insurance frequently excludes sewer back-ups from coverage, however, a rider can be purchased, for a minimal cost, to cover this type of occurrence. Typically there is a \$250 deductible and a maximum payout of \$10,000. Homeowners are encouraged to speak with their insurance carrier to look into this coverage.

Consideration should also be taken not to allow rags, disposable diapers and other items which can become lodged in your sewer pipes or the main sewer from entering the system. You only have to experience a sewer back-up once to appreciate the urgency of this message.

SAFETY COMMITTEE SAVES LIVES AND DOLLARS

In August 1997 your Board of Directors took the first step in formalizing a Safety Committee to promote the safety and health of its workers with the adoption of a Safety and Health Policy. This was then followed by the formation of a Safety Committee consisting of five (5) members

representing employees and four (4) members representing management.

The committee's first meeting was held on October 17, 1997 and monthly meetings, limited to approximately one (1) hour, have been held ever since that time. The committee's vision is to the safety and health of the Authority's employees, the public, its contractors, and to property protection and other conditions that may produce loss.

After six (6) months of the committee's operation the Authority may apply to the State for certification which then entitles the Authority to a five percent (5%) reduction in its workers' compensation costs. This amounts to approximately \$5,000 a year. Savings to the Authority do not stop here. Every accident prevented means a better experience rate with the insurance carrier which then translates to a lesser premium.

KEEP THOSE METER COVERS CLEAR

Levittown residents do not have to be bothered with having a meter reader knocking at their door to read their water meter. This is because meters are located in a meter pit in the front lawns. It is helpful if residents keep their meter covers clear of encroaching grass and weeds, and above all do not place any objects over the meter pits which prevent the meter readers from carrying out their assignments.

AUTHORITY TO REFINANCE 1992 BONDS

In 1992 the Authority issued \$14,980,000 in bonds, \$8,000,000 was for new pro-

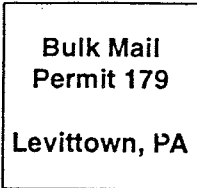
jects and the remainder paid off a previous issue. Because of a favorable bond market the Board of Directors approved the refinancing of the balance of the current Bond Issue which will produce a savings estimated at \$350,000. The exact amount of the savings will not be determined until the day of the sale of the bonds due to the daily fluctuation in the bond market.

EASEMENTS

When Levitt & Sons constructed Levittown, virtually all sanitary sewers were constructed near the property lines in the backyards along with the utility poles. This made the streets and homes focal points, more pleasing to the eye. In addition, the original Levitt "guidelines" did not allow for any structures, trees or even shrubs taller than two feet to be located on the easements. Although these "rules" are still on the books, with the passage of time they have been ignored to the point where problems are developing on these easements.

Tree roots penetrating the sewer mains, storage sheds over manholes, swimming pools and fences on the easements, are just a sample of problems frequently encountered by Authority personnel while performing their maintenance tasks. The Authority realizes that many people in Levittown now have some sort of storage shed on an easement, so we make every effort to accommodate this fact while working in those areas. However, one item which is causing serious problems is the planting of trees and large shrubs on the easements.

continued on back page



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Anna Rogers Chair Person
Edward Czyzyk Vice Chairman
Bryan Servis Secretary
John Monahan Treasurer
Anthony Verduci Asst. Secretary
Edmund Armstrong Asst. Treasurer

To:

MANAGING DIRECTOR

August A. Baur

ASST. TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

Janet Keyser

CONSULTING ENGINEER

Unitech Engineers, Inc

SOLICITOR

James Downey III

LBCJMA-PROTECTING YOUR ENVIRONMENT

continued from page 3

Tree roots can cause sewer main blockages and even back-ups into homes. Since our community is over 40 years old many trees have matured to enormous sizes. Roots from these trees penetrate the sewer mains and also the house laterals connecting the homes to the sewer mains.

Roots are another cause of blockages in our sewer lines. Blockages frequently are not identified until a back-up occurs in a home, many times causing damage. If it is determined that a blockage is caused by the roots from a tree on your property and upon our easement, you, as the homeowner, could be held liable for damages.

To avoid the unpleasantness of a sewer line back-up to yourself or to one of your neighbors, as well as the possibility of legal entanglements, the Authority is asking its rate payers to look at their properties to determine if there are trees or other large plantings on the easements and remove them. If you are unsure if you have a problem you can call 946-0731 and a representative will come and discuss the matter with you.

MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES

Certification Fee: \$20

When selling a property a water and/or sewer certification is required. The Title Company, Real Estate Agent or Attorney will notify the LBCJMA office. A meter reading will be taken one (1) week prior to the scheduled sale date, and the final paperwork showing any balance on the account will be processed and returned at the time of settlement for payment.

Rental Certification: \$10

The homeowner is to notify the Authority of a change in tenant. A meter reading will be taken and final paperwork will be forwarded to the homeowner with an explanation of any balances owed on the account.

Water Re-Connection Fee: \$85

This fee is charged when and after a homeowner is notified that their water services will be discontinued for non-payment. This fee is charged when a request is made for their water services to be re-established after 3:00 P.M. Mondays through Fridays, Week-ends and Holidays.

Lien Fee: \$85

This fee is charged to remove a lien from a record when the account is brought down to a zero balance. The LBCJMA will lien properties that have been listed for Tax Sale or Sheriff Sale. The Authority receives a list of the properties once a year for Tax Sales and once a month for Sheriff Sales from Doylestown. The Authority will place a lien against a property should the property's account appear severely delinquent.

Return Check Fee: \$15

The Authority charges this fee per occurrence for a returned check.

LBCJMA OFFICE HOURS:

Main office hours are 8:00 A.M through 4:30 P.M. Mondays through Fridays. Telephone number is 945-7400.

Sewer Plant office hours are 7:30 A.M. through 3:30 P.M. Mondays through Fridays. Telephone number is 946-0731.

Water Plant office hours are 7:30 A.M. through 3:30 P.M. Mondays through Fridays. Telephone number is 945-1170. Both the Water and Sewer Plants are a 24 hour operation. Should you have an emergency you may still call the above telephone numbers at any given hour.