

CITY OF MILFORD

“Southern Gateway to the Iowa Great Lakes”

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June 1, 2011

Dear Milford Sanitary Sewer Customers:

The City of Milford owns and maintains most of the sanitary sewer lines and lift stations within the city limits. This system is used to transport wastewater to the Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District trunk lines which lead to its wastewater treatment plant located in Milford.

We are all beneficiaries of the network sewer pipes and lift stations pump stations that have been put in place by previous Milford residents. However, because the system has lasted so long, we haven't had to worry about making many major improvements. Unfortunately, much of the system has outlived its life expectancy and is in need of replacement. In fact, some sewer pipes in Milford are nearly 100 years old. Without replacement in the near future, these pipes run a high risk of failure and collapse, which could result in major sewer backups, disruptions in service, high cost of emergency repair, and steep sewer rate increases.

The Milford City Council and Milford Municipal Utilities have partnered in initiating the first phase of a comprehensive plan in rehabilitating our infrastructure. Construction has begun on 6th St. from N Ave. to west of H Ave. This \$1.6 million project entails replacing the water and sewer lines, storm sewer improvements, and concrete street and curb and gutter. The project will also involve installing a continuous sidewalk on the south side of 6th St. from Highway 71 to H Ave. and street lighting improvements. The project is anticipated to be completed in October.

To pay for this project and future sanitary sewer system improvements, the Milford City Council is in the process of implementing a two phase increase in monthly sewer rates. Current rates are as follows: Base-\$1.75/mo. Usage-\$1.15/1000 gal. The new rates are anticipated to be as follows:

Effective	Base Rate	Usage Rate
June billing due July 2011	\$3.00	\$1.90/1000 gal
June billing due July 2012	\$4.20	\$2.76/1000 gal

The City of Milford is mindful of the financial impact rate increases have on users. However, they are needed to help pay for the 6th St. project and future sewer rehabilitation projects and to prevent even steeper increases in the future. Moreover, our rates will still be competitive with many other cities in Iowa.

Finally, the Milford City Council will also be beginning the process of implementing a storm water utility district. Each user will pay a small fee on your monthly utility bill to pay for a portion of the 6th St. project and set funds aside for future storm water improvements. Storm water utility districts are becoming increasingly common across Iowa and the nation. Key advantages of storm water utilities are that charges are based on runoff rather than property value as is the case with general taxes. All property types pay, including tax exempt.

Thank you for your attention and interest in your community.

Sincerely,

CITY OF MILFORD