

FACTS ABOUT

BLISSFIELD WATER & SEWER



WATER

24.5 miles of mains plus 180+ hydrants, and valves

Estimated Total Replacement Cost- \$30M

SEWER

24.5 miles of mains plus manholes, and lift stations

Estimated Total Replacement Cost- \$38M

FEES

Water & Sewer Fees are made up of two parts:

Availability Charge- This is the base amount billed each month. These revenues are used to pay for Operating Cost.

Consumption Charge - This is the amount billed per 1000 gallons of usage. These revenues are used to pay for current & future infrastructure projects (Capital Improvements)

Operating Cost are the ongoing expenses incurred of the normal day-to-day operations such as chemicals, daily maintenance, locates, and repairs.

Capital Improvements are special larger projects such as equipment replacement, or pipe replacement.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSENT ORDER

Blissfield was assessed \$5,000 in fines which were paid in 2020. No additional fines were assessed to the Village & the Administrative Consent Order (ACO) was terminated by MI ELGE on November 28, 2023.

MANDATES: LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

MI EGLE* has mandated that communities locate and replace all lead or galvanized service lines. While the Village has been working on this for the last several years the following items are still pending:

- 665 remaining services to identify
- The expected cost just to identify the service line materials is expected to be \$483,000-\$724,500
- The estimated cost to replace service lines is expected to be \$3.6 Million.

This mandate is just one of the many challenges Blissfield and other communities face.

*MI EGLE stands for Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (previously MI Department of Environmental Quality). MI EGLE safeguards our state's environment while supporting the economic growth and development crucial for Michigan's future.

CURRENT PROJECTS BUDGETED FISCAL YEAR OCT. 2023- SEPT. 2024

The following projects are funded within the current budget year and are in progress or scheduled to be completed in summer of 2024.

Water Projects

- Sherman St & N. Lane Hydrant Replacement - \$17,500
- Dam Repairs (mandated by MI EGLE) - \$12,000
- Water Tower Water Main Replacement Project- \$330,000
- Water Treatment Plant Generator Replacement - \$33,000
- Water Treatment Plant Filter Room Air Unit- \$57,310
- Intake Inspection- \$5,000
- SCADA Upgrades- \$9,000
- Reliability Study (mandated by MI EGLE) - \$60,000
- Low Service VFD Replacement- \$20,000
- Under River Water Main Replacement- \$343,000

Sewer Projects

- Mains & Manhole Replacement - \$400,000
- Beagle Rd. Lift Station Chopper Pumps - \$50,000

Combined Projects

- Meter Replacement Project - \$423,000 (total \$1,345,950)
- Hydro-Excavation Truck (will be used to help locate lead lines as mandated (see above)) - \$230,000

WHY YOUR BILL MAY BE HIGHER ONE MONTH FROM THE NEXT?

Currently meters are scheduled to be read on the 15th of each month.

Example:

- A DPW employee will read the meter on February 15th which will cover usage from January 16th to February 15th.
- The read will then be entered into the billing program.
- Bill is mailed and emailed on March 1st and the bill due March 25th (unless the 25th is a weekend or holiday, then the due date falls on the next business day)

Occasionally, our read periods are extended if DPW has other items taking priority such as snow plowing, or a broken water main. If meters cannot be read on the 15th the usage period is extended; however the base fee remains the same. Billing runs behind 6 weeks.

Blissfield staff work hard to avoid this situation as much as possible to keep utility bills consistent. The new meter program will help solve this issue as reading will be done electronically.

WHAT IS AN ENTERPRISE FUND?

Our water & sewer funds are enterprise funds. Enterprise funds account for operation and maintenance of water and sewer services which are entirely self-supporting by user charges (fees).



MORE QUESTIONS?

Reach out to our staff anytime!

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