



1445 E. Main St. Douglassville, Pa. 19518
(610) 582-3769 Ext. 4
UTMA1145@outlook.com

UTMA BOARD

Mark Matthews -Chairman
Phillip Reyna - Vice Chairman
Lee Bunczk
Heather Heltzinger
Stephen Beideman

Date: January 9,2024

Dear Customer,

RE: Notice of Increase in Water & Sewer Rates

The Union Township Municipal Authority at a Special Meeting held November 18, 2024, approved a quarterly \$35.00 rate increase to the base water rate, and a \$15.00 increase to the sewer rate effective January 1,2025.

The increase will be reflected in your first quarter bill issued the first week of April 2025.

The reason for the increase is:

- 1) The Authority has not increased their rates in three years, however all our costs from outside vendors has increased each year.
- 2) This Authority does **not** own or operate a Sewer or a Water Processing Plant, and the flow is sent to either Birdsboro Municipal Authority or Amity Municipal Authority. Union Township has agreements with both facilities for processing the waste for a fee based on flow, and, also a percentage of any upgrades that are required. Amity Municipal Authority is currently undergoing an upgrade and expansion of their plant at a cost of 25 million dollars. The Authority is responsible for 7.4% of any upgrades to the Amity facility, and this equates to 1.8 million dollars that the Authority will be responsible to pay Amity by 2027. The Authority has recently secured financing to pay for these costs but, to repay the debt **and our routine utility, repair, maintenance and operations**, we must increase our rates.
- 3) The Authority owns a water facility located at The Buckingham Preserve Development consisting of 137 homes. When the water system was created, three wells were dug. One was not able to be used. **At the start of system operations there were two wells producing water compliant with all regulatory requirements. However, over time, one of the wells experienced a significant increase in its nitrate concentration. At this time this one well is out of service due to high nitrates. The system is operating with only one well producing all of the water. After investigation by our Engineer, it was determined that that high-nitrate well requires a nitrate treatment system.**
- 4) The Authority considers this a critical project that must be completed to assure the availability of safe drinking water for the residents. The Authority has applied for grants to assist with the cost of the nitrate removal system several times and has not been awarded any funds to date. There is another grant application that has been submitted and it is pending.
The Authority decided to secure the funds in the amount of \$500,000.00 for this project in the event no grant funds are awarded.

1445 East Main Street, Douglassville, PA 19518 * Phone (610) 385-3769 Fax (610) 582-4737

~~~[www.unionberks.org/authorities](http://www.unionberks.org/authorities)~~~

While we make every effort to keep costs down for users, we also must have the financial security to maintain and operate the sewer and water system.

If you have any questions, we recommend that you attend an Authority Meeting which occurs the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm.

The meetings are held at the Union Township Municipal Building located at; 1445 E. Main St. Douglassville, Pa.19518. You can also email or call the Authority at the email address or phone number at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,  
Union Township Municipal Authority.