

**TOWN OF LYSANDER**  
**OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR**

**Kevin Rode**  
Supervisor

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8220 LOOP ROAD  
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**Jeffrey Kudarauskas**  
Deputy Supervisor

[jkudarauskas@townoflysander.org](mailto:jkudarauskas@townoflysander.org)

To: Resident of West Phoenix Sewer District

Re: 2026 Special District Fee Increase

Dear Resident,

The Town of Lysander was informed of a billing error discovered by Onondaga County Water & Environmental Protection (WEP). When the Town of Lysander leased its' Sewer infrastructure in 2021 to Onondaga County for maintenance and upkeep, property owners within the Onondaga County Consolidated Sanitary Sewer District (OCCSSD) are billed for these services by an annual fee on the County/Town tax bill. In 2024, that annual per unit fee was \$445.44. In 2025, the annual per unit fee was \$452.81. When OCWEP audited their books for work within the West Phoenix Sewer District in 2022, 2023 & 2024, they realized the special district was not within the OCCSSD, and therefore no work/repairs completed within your district were billed. The 2022-2023 total was \$15383.00 and in 2024 was \$5968.50, for a total of \$21351.50.

As we were just informed this Summer of the outstanding bill, the Town paid the bill to Onondaga County as legally obligated to. We then entered the bill against the West Phoenix Sewer District, as legally required to do. The Special District has a few options to pay this debt off. We could issue a BAN (short-term loan, less than 5 years), bond (long-term loan, over 5 years), or just levy the total onto the 2026 tax bill. Given current interest rates and various fees associated with the BAN/bond route, the most financially prudent decision would be to levy the total into the 2026 Tax Bill.

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To: Resident of West Phoenix Sewer District

Re: 2026 Special District Fee Increase – cont'd

In 2025, the sewer district charge was \$75 per unit. That cost was not based on the knowledge of the estimated costs of maintenance we now know. There are roughly 53 units within the district. The estimated 2026 sewer district charge will be \$340 per unit. While we understand this is a drastic increase, it is unfortunately a necessary one. Given the expected costs per year of maintenance will be around \$7000, this annual fee should be around \$250 per unit in 2027.

*Please remember that all of these unit fees discussed are separate from the sewer bill you receive from the Village of Phoenix, whom we contract with to process the sewage from the district at their treatment plant.* Our long-term goal is to connect the West Phoenix Sewer District to OCWEP as the pipes over the river reach end of life and the costs of replacement will warrant a different approach.

We apologize for this information but wanted to bring it to your attention. Please reach out to me with any questions you may have.

I will hold an information session on Monday December 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30PM to 7:30PM in the Auditorium at Lysander Town Hall.

Kevin Rode

Lysander Town Supervisor