

TOWN OF LYSANDER
OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR

Kevin Rode

Supervisor

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8220 LOOP ROAD

BALDWINSVILLE, NEW YORK 13027

(315) 857-0281

Jeffrey Kudarauskas

Deputy Supervisor

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To: Resident of West Genesee Sewer District Ext. #1

Re: 2026 Special District Fee Increase

Dear Resident,

It has come to our attention that the West Genesee Sewer District Ext. #1 annual unit fee must be significantly increased to account for annual repairs and maintenance to items not covered by the lease agreement with Onondaga County Water and Environmental Protection (WEP).

When the lease agreement was signed in 2021, the agreement did not include repairs and maintenance to grinder pumps owned by the special district. As these pumps age out, there is significant costs to repairing them. Sometimes this is upwards of \$3000 per pump. We have had to rebuild 3 of these so far within the last 12 months, at a cost of almost \$9000, which was not budgeted for within the district. These costs are in addition to the annual debt service for the initial construction of the sewer system, and the annual fee paid to Onondaga County. We asked WEP if they would take over maintenance of the grinder pumps, and they declined as they have none within their inventory and would need someone to specifically deal with them.

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 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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Re: 2026 Special District Fee Increase – cont'd

In 2024 the annual charge per unit was \$0 because the previous Town Supervisor and Comptroller used the one-time special district portions' payment by Onondaga County to offset the special district fee. In 2025, the sewer district charge was \$183.44 per unit. That cost was not based on the knowledge of the estimated costs of maintenance we now know. There are roughly 27 units within the district. The estimated 2026 sewer district charge will be \$499.00 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 \$9000, this annual fee should stay around this amount until all pumps are rebuilt and reach end of life within the next few years. At that time, the annual special district fee should decrease somewhat as we put funds in reserves within the special district to deal with this maintenance cost long-term.

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

I will have an informational on Monday, December 15th from 5:30PM to 7:30PM in the Auditorium at Lysander Town Hall for those who wish to attend.

Kevin Rode

Lysander Town Supervisor