

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS

Subject: Water and Sewer Utility Base Rate Requirement

Dear Property Owner:

The City of Harlowton is writing to inform property owners that, due to the significant and ongoing costs associated with maintaining and improving the City's water and sewer infrastructure, a base utility rate will apply to properties within the City that have previously severed or discontinued their water and/or sewer utility service.

The city is responsible for maintaining, repairing, upgrading, and replacing the infrastructure that provides essential water and sewer services throughout our community. These projects represent substantial costs that must be shared among the properties and residents that benefit from having access to and living within the City's utility system.

To ensure that these costs are distributed in a fair and equitable manner, property owners within the City of Harlowton will be required to pay the applicable water and sewer base rate, even if the property's utility service has been severed or is not currently being used. The base rate is intended to help cover the ongoing costs of infrastructure, system maintenance, improvements, debt obligations, and other expenses necessary to keep the City's water and sewer systems available and functioning for the community.

In the future, if the property owner wants to activate water and sewer usage, the base rate for the consecutive water system used by the City of Harlowton will need to be added to the city's base rate. Rates can change due to infrastructure projects and/or inflation.

This requirement recognizes that the cost of maintaining essential public infrastructure cannot be borne solely by those properties that are actively using the system at a particular time. As property owners within the City, each property has a share in the responsibility of supporting the infrastructure that serves and protects our community.

The City understands that changes to utility billing may raise questions. We encourage property owners who have questions regarding their account, the applicable base rate, or how this requirement affects their property to contact City Hall.

The City appreciates your understanding and cooperation as we work to maintain reliable infrastructure and ensure that the costs of these essential improvements are shared fairly among property owners.

Sincerely,

RATES

City of Harlowton Water Base Rate \$44.68

City of Harlowton Sewer Base Rate \$59.24

Meter Fee \$2.00

Solid Waste Fee \$2.23

Total City of Harlowton Base Rate \$108.15

If services are activated additional charges will ensue

Central MT Rural Water Authority Base Rate \$37.72

Water usage \$1.75/1000 gallons

Sewer usage \$1.75/2000 gallons

Total Base Rate will be \$145.87 plus water and sewer usage