

Final Budget Message 2019 - 2020

General Fund:

Back in 2012, New York State instituted a property tax cap for Schools, Towns and Villages. For the fiscal years from 2012 through 2016, the Village of Akron stayed under the tax cap. In doing so, fund balances dwindled to levels below state targets, infrastructure including streets, sidewalks and public buildings fell in disrepair, equipment failed, and cuts to public safety were enacted. All this while trying to pay for state mandated cost increases of more than 15% each year. This led to a "fiscal stressed" designation from the State Comptroller's Office. For the last three years, the Board of Trustees raised taxes 7.8%, 6.5%, and 3.3% respectively to not only address the Comptroller's report but more importantly to start reinvesting in our community.

This year the Village Board was pleased to return to a slight increase, under the 2% tax cap limit, of \$0.1489 to \$7.2689 per thousand. We need to be reinvesting in our Village. This increase will include the addition of two seasonal DPW employees so our DPW crews can stay on the several scheduled street and utility projects for this year. Also, we will return our Police Service to sixteen hours per day.

The taxable assessment for the budget year 2019-2020 is \$141,306,292. This year's operating budget is \$2,063,024.

Water Fund:

There will be no water increase at this time. The current rates as of July 15th, 2018 will remain in effect.

Residential Regular Rate:

Water - 1st 2,000 gallons = \$18.75 per month; Additional usage billed at \$8.20/1,000 gallons

Residential Low Usage Rate:

Water – 2,000-gallon minimum = \$15.75 per month; Additional 1,000 gallons billed at \$16.40; Additional usage after that billed at \$8.20/1,000 gallons

Note: Low Usage Rate is based on the previous year's usage of 2,000 gallons or less/month and the customer would have the option to choose this rate and maintain this rate for a one-year period.

Industrial Rates

Water – 1st 34,000 gallons = \$266.75 per month; Additional 1,000 gallons billed at \$8.20/1,000 gallons

Easement Customers:

Water – 2,000-gallon minimum = \$22.87 per month; Additional 1,000 gallons billed at \$10.25/1,000 gallons

Easement Low Usage Rate:

Water – 2,000 – gallon minimum = \$19.25 per month; Additional 1,000 gallons billed at \$20.50; Additional usage after that billed at \$10.25/1,000 gallons.

Outside Village Water Customers:

Water – 1st 2,000 gallons = \$27.00 per month; Additional 1,000 gallons billed at \$12.30/1,000 gallons

Outside Village Water Customers Low Usage Rate:

Water – 2,000-gallon minimum = \$22.25 per month; Additional 1,000 gallons billed at \$24.60; Additional usage after that billed at \$12.30/1,000 gallons

Over the past two years, the Village has instituted a water meter replacement program and to date we are over 99% complete. This new program will significantly increase efficiency and accuracy of our meter reading and billing.

Sewer Fund:

Sewer rates will increase as per below. The current rate of \$6.25/1,000 gallons has been in effect since 7/15/2017 and current base rates as of 7/15/2018. Current increase will take effect on 7/15/2019.

Residential Regular Rate:

Sewer – 1st 2,000 gallons = \$15.50 per month; Additional usage billed at \$6.75/1,000 gallons

Residential Low User Rate:

Sewer – 2,000-gallon minimum = \$11.00 per month; Additional 1,000 gallons billed at \$13.50; Additional usage after that billed at \$6.75/1,000 gallons

Industrial Rates:

Sewer -1st 2,000 gallons = \$15.50 per month; Additional 1,000 gallons billed at \$6.75/1,000 gallons

The new water meter replacement program will have the same effect for our sewer billing.

Electric Fund:

There will be no increase at this time in electric. The current rates as of November 2017 will remain in effect.