

Village of Trumansburg Sewer Law Revision

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the history of sewer regulation in the village?

The Village's current sewer law was adopted in 1966. Since then, little to no substantive changes have occurred besides adjusting the sewer rate to ensure the sewer budget remained solvent.

Why is the Village revising its sewer regulation?

A lot has changed in the 56 years since the initial sewer law was adopted. There are substantial requirements and recommendations at both a state and federal level that need to be incorporated into our local law. Additionally, the existing law has not kept up with the evolution of new best practices, particularly in the area of equitable cost distribution.

What is the basis for the changes being proposed?

The bulk of the changes come from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Model Pretreatment Ordinance ([link](#)) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Model Sewer Use Law ([link](#)). Additional changes, particularly in the area of equitable cost distribution, are being proposed based on guidance from the Village's engineering firm, MRB Group.

What are the significant changes being proposed?

While there are a number of significant changes required to incorporate all of the state and federal requirements and recommendations, the large majority of those changes do not impact individual sewer users. Instead, they impact situations such as adding new sewer connections and mains, or industrial users disposing of chemical waste.

The changes that are most impactful to all users are those that cover enforcement. The enforcement sections have been made significantly more explicit about items such as notification of a violation, the user's right to contest and be heard, the structure of potential fines, and the process for suspension and termination. This clarity helps users understand their rights and the appropriate processes should they become necessary.

Additionally, the changes that are most impactful to non-residential users are those that cover service charges and the pretreatment of wastewater.

For some non-residential users, grease and oil interceptors will become required to protect the wastewater infrastructure. Those commercial users have been contacted by the Village and should be aware of the new requirement.

For all non-residential users, the service charges section has been updated to create a more fair and equitable billing standard. The new standard is based on Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) which reflect the average water use for a single-family home in the village (50,000 gallons per year). Non-residential users will be assigned a number of EDUs based on their annual water usage and will be charged one sewer unit per EDU.

What steps have happened in the revision process so far?

The Village's engineering firm, MRB Group, reviewed both the model documents and incorporated them into the Village's existing sewer use law to create the foundation of the new proposed sewer use law. That early draft was then reviewed by the Board of Trustees and feedback was incorporated into the draft. The Village's attorney then reviewed the draft and provided his feedback which was again incorporated into the draft.

What are the next steps in the revision process?

The new draft law is currently available for public comment and feedback. Residents and sewer users are encouraged to send feedback to PublicComment@trumansburg-ny.gov or to provide feedback at a Village Board of Trustees meeting on the second and fourth Mondays of the month starting at 7:00 pm in the Village meeting room. Additionally, the Village Board of Trustees may decide to

hold a public information meeting for additional questions, feedback, and dialogue. To adopt the law the Village Board of Trustees is required to hold a formal public hearing and a formal vote to adopt the bill.