



City of Gibraltar Water Rate

Info

2014-2015

Water and Sewer Rates

This brochure is intended to provide City of Gibraltar Residents with information related water and sewer rates within the City. The City of Gibraltar is considered a full service provider for both municipal water service and sanitary sewer. This means that as a resident you do not use a well or septic tank to provide clean drinking water and sewage treatment. To provide this service, the City has contracted with the City of Detroit Water and Sewer System to provide potable drinking water to our residents. On the sanitary side, the City of Gibraltar belongs to a conglomerate called South Huron Valley Utility Authority (SHVUA).

The City of Gibraltar has chosen to partner with these entities in order to provide the residents of Gibraltar with the most efficient and effective provision of both water and sewer.

In order to provide these utilities to our residents, the costs of providing the utility must be allocated across the commodity. As of July 2014 the following rates correspond to one unit (1 unit = 1,000 gallons) of usage:

<u>Utility</u>	<u>Cost/Unit</u>
Water	\$7.18
Sewer	\$12.10
Total	\$19.28

In addition to metered water and sewer usage, residents are assessed amortized charges for the replacement of water meters. These meter replacement charges are based upon an amortized meter replacement schedule. Currently, the per bill charge for meters totals \$7.25 for a 1” meter.

How Are Rates Determined?

On an annual basis, while the determining the next fiscal year budget, the City of Gibraltar takes into consideration the following items when determining water and sewer rates:

- Increases imposed annually by Detroit Water & Sewerage Department
- Increases imposed by SHVUA to treat City Waste Water
- SHVUA cost share adjustments imposed on each member community based upon usage
- Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Projects
- Equipment Costs
- Expected Commodity Usage
- Personnel Costs

For FY 2014/2015 the following budget applies to the Gibraltar Water and Sewer Department

<u>REVENUES</u>	<u>2014/15</u>
Water & Sewer Op Collections	\$2,130,000.00
Meter Charge	\$37,500.00
Water Tap-in	\$500.00
Penalties/Interest on Collections	\$ 3,000.00
Interest on Invest	\$ 250.00
Water Op Interest	\$ 1,500.00
SSMR Interest	\$ 100.00
Misc. Revenue	\$ 4,500.00
Fund Balance	<u>\$ 368,370.00</u>
Total Revenue	\$2,545,720.00

<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	
Offices/Computer Supplies	\$2,000.00
Depreciation	\$70,000.00
Postage	\$1,600.00
Operating Expenses	\$40,000.00
Cross Connection Control	\$16,500.00
Auditing Expenses	\$24,500.00
Engineering Fees	\$30,000.00
Print/Publish/Xerox	\$1,750.00
Transfer to General Fund	\$300,000.00
Sewage Disposal	\$685,000.00
Water Purchases	\$400,000.00
Water Escrow Mini Sewer	\$275,000.00

City of Gibraltar Water and Sewer Dept.

29450 Munro

Gibraltar, MI 48173

734-676-3900

SHUVA Look Back	\$ 41,593.00
Education/Schools	\$2,000.00
Misc. Expense	\$ 5,000.00
S.S.M.R. Expenditures Capital Equip/Misc.	\$17,500.00
	\$35,000.00
Capital Improvements	\$60,000.00
New Meter Loan	\$37,500.00
Attorney Fees	\$4,000.00
Saw Grant Match	\$125,000.00
SHUVA Pump Rebuild/Sludge Thickener Payment	\$71,777
North Gibraltar Water Main	\$300,000.00
Total Expenditures	\$2,545,720.00

Billing

Residents are billed quarterly each year for the actual amount of water used, which is measured in lots of 1,000 cubic feet (mcf) of water. When you receive your quarterly water bill, please remember to check your water meter reading with the listed numbers of gallons on the bill. Your meter should read higher than the billing information.

If there are any discrepancies, please notify the Water Department immediately at (734) 676-8982. Discrepancies are the responsibility of the property owner.

As a reminder, your quarterly water bills are mailed out at the end of January, April, July, and October. Water bills are then due by the 10th of the following month. Water bills are payable at City Hall, 29450 Munro Avenue, Gibraltar, MI 48173.

As a reference, average usage of both water and sewer is approximately 5,000 gallons/billing cycle/ individual in the household. At this rate, for a household of four, average quarterly billings should total \$385.60 or \$128.53/month.

Forms of payment include cash or check with a credit card payment option coming on-line during the summer of 2014.

Delinquency

Realizing the difficult economic conditions experienced by the City Residents, the City of Gibraltar has adopted the following delinquent water bill payment policy:

Commencing with the City of Gibraltar Water Department November 2012 utility billing, any delinquent account balances in excess of \$50.00 shall be afforded the following payment option:

If any customer shall receive a “shut off notice” for a delinquent water bill pursuant to Section 38-27 of the City of Gibraltar Code, said customer may request a repayment plan.

The customer shall request the repayment plan in person at the City of Gibraltar City Hall.

If a repayment plan is requested, without exception (to avoid shut off), the maximum period of repayment shall not exceed the period of time between the past due date and the next scheduled water billing.

In order to authorize a repayment plan, the City of Gibraltar Water Department requires, at the time the repayment plan is requested, an initial minimum payment of at least 50% of the past due balance.

Payment increments for the remainder of the bill shall be established in a manner that will result in the resolution of the customer’s delinquency prior to the next scheduled water billing.

Payments must be made in the form of cash, money order, or certified check.

A customer may request a repayment plan no more than two times per calendar year.

All terms and provisions of Chapter 38 Utilities, of the City of Gibraltar Code of Ordinances remain in full force and effect and nothing in this Policy shall be construed to negate or void any term or provision of Chapter 38 Utilities, of the City of Gibraltar Code of Ordinances.

Conserve Water to Help Control Rates

Conserving water means smaller water bills if you live in an area serviced by a municipal water system.

A large percentage of water use is in the bathroom. To help conserve water, install water-saving devices on faucets and shower heads. Place plastic jugs filled with sand or stones in your toilet tank to reduce the amount of water used per flush. (Avoid using bricks, which can flake and disrupt the operation of your toilet.) Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth, shaving, or washing your hands and face. Take shorter showers. When filling the tub, don’t let the water run down the drain while waiting for it to get hot. Fix dripping taps and leaking toilets.

To conserve water in the kitchen, don’t let water run for washing or rinsing hands, dishes or food. Wash only full loads of dishes in your dishwasher using biodegradable (phosphate-free) detergents and soaps. Don’t let the water run to get a cold drink. Instead, keep a bottle or pitcher of water in the refrigerator. Use your garbage disposal at the end of cooking or cleanup or when it is full. Wash only full loads of laundry.

Outside water conservation is easy. Don’t over water your lawn. Ensure that your sprinklers are not watering sidewalks, driveways or streets. Water your lawn between the hours of 11:00 PM and 5:00 AM when temperature and wind speed are the lowest to avoid evaporation losses. Check your sprinklers, hoses and spigots for leaks. Do not hose down your driveway or sidewalk, use a broom instead. Do not leave running hoses unattended. Collect water from the roof gutters or have a rain barrel for lawn and plant watering. Native and/or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees typically require less water. Avoid over fertilizing your lawn and keep your lawn three inches or higher.

Check for Water Leaks:

A good method to check for leaks is to examine your winter water usage. It is likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter use exceeds 12,000 gallons per month. [US EPA Water Sense website]

To be sure that you do not have a water leak somewhere in your home, go dry for two hours. Turn off all appliances that use water and do not use any water for the two hours – no toilets, sinks or faucets – inside or outside. Check your meter reading before and after the two hours. If the meter reading changes even a little bit, you probably have a leak and each fixture in your home should be checked.

Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl before you flush, you have a leak.

A continuous leak at 60 psi water pressure from a hole the size shown below would, over a three month period, waste water in the amounts shown.

<u>Diameter of Stream</u>	<u>Gallons</u>
1/4”	1,181,500
3/16”	666,000
1/8”	296,000
1/16”	74,000

