



MONROE TOWNSHIP STORMWATER NEWS

MS4 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT WHAT IS IT AND WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) are systems of publicly owned pipes, roads, and ditches that transport stormwater runoff to local waterways. In areas that the waterways have been designated "impaired", municipalities are mandated by the federal government to have permitting and a plan in place to improve the water quality of these impaired waterways.

After more than a year of analysis, public engagement and requests for help to our state representatives, the Monroe Township Board of Supervisors officially enacted Ordinance 2020-01 - Stormwater Fee Ordinance on July 9, 2020. The flat rate quarterly fee was set at \$43.25 per parcel by Resolution 2020-11 on September 10, 2020.

WHY DO WE NEED A STORMWATER FEE?

Many within our Township many not realize it but Monroe Twp has been required to obtain a specific permit and be in compliance with PA's Dept. of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS-4) Program since 2003. Stormwater regulations associated with the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) are administered under the MS-4 Program by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In Pennsylvania, the MS-4 program is managed by the PADEP. This is more commonly known as the Chesapeake Bay initiative, one of the largest unfunded mandates to be forced upon Pennsylvania.

For many years, the expenses associated with Monroe's MS-4 permit compliance have been paid through the Township's general operating fund. The most recent MS-4 permit issued by the PADEP in 2018 has the most extensive requirements (thus most expensive) to date and our township's budget can no longer absorb the increased expenses required to meet the requirements of this permit without generating additional revenue. This is impacting many of the municipalities in our region.

Stormwater facilities exist across the entire Township and stormwater fees will be used to correct and/or improve stormwater facilities throughout Monroe. Those ditches, storm drains and pipes that are deteriorating in your neighborhood may be fixed or improved with funds from the stormwater account.

Monroe's Board of Supervisors chose to implement the stormwater fee as an equal flat fee per parcel. This methodology is different than the fee structure implemented in surrounding Townships which is based on a flat rate for single-family homes and a variable rate calculated by the total square foot area of impervious surfaces on all other properties. Because of the small number of non-single-family home properties within Monroe Township, the impervious surface calculation fee structure would have placed a disproportionate financial burden on our Township's churches, farms and other commercial and non-profit organizations.

Always Invited

All of Monroe's meetings are open to the public.

Please feel free to attend to see firsthand all that goes into supporting our hometown and to maybe see how you can get involved.

Check out Monroe Township's website for more info. and the meeting schedules for all of our Township's leadership boards; Board of Supervisor, Recreation, Municipal Authority, Planning Commission & Zoning Hearing.

Monroetwp.net

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INFORMATION FOR BILLING, ONLINE ACCESS AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

Commencing October 2020, a Stormwater Fee of \$43.25 will be billed to each parcel quarterly.

Future billings will be based on the following:

Stormwater Billing Timeline Information		
<u>Period</u>	<u>Billing Date</u>	<u>Billing Due Date</u>
January – March	January 15 th	February 28 th
April – June	April 15 th	May 31 st
July – September	July 15 th	August 31 st
October – December	October 15 th	November 30 th

A 10% penalty will be charged to past due accounts.

Online Payments and e-Billing Customer Portal

The customer portal provides you with the opportunity to create an account through self-registration to access your account information and activity online, including paying your bills via electronic payment.

The option to sign up for e-Billing is also available. If you are interested in creating a customer portal account go to <https://monroetwp.authoritypay.com/> and click on Set Up Online Access. You will need your account number and CID number.

Electronic payments can be made through the Customer Portal by using your banking information or credit/debit card. Please be aware that if payment is made using a credit/debit card you will be assessed a convenience fee of 2.65% or a \$3.00 minimum.

Current sewer customers that have already created an account on the Customer Portal, will be able to use the same log in information to view and/or pay your stormwater bill.