



Water & Sewer Department
8555 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, Caledonia, MI 49316
www.gainestownship.org
Ph: 616.433.2916 or 616.431.4660

2026 Water and Sewer Rates

Annually Gaines Charter Township Water & Sewer Department reviews the billing rates based on the *last fiscal year's expenses and revenues*. Annual rate adjustments are necessary to make sure the usage and service rates generate the correct amount of revenue and cash flow to provide reliable and sustainable services to the community. Our water and sewage treatment is provided by the City of Wyoming and the City of Grand Rapids therefore the rates have a direct correlation with the cost they charge us. In addition, the rates must reflect the cost of operations, insurance, and State of Michigan regulatory requirements. Ready to Serve (RTS) is the fee that captures the fixed expenses of operating and maintaining the water and sewer system for quality service.

The Water & Sewer Department does not receive revenue from property taxes or any other financial support from the Township. Water & Sewer are enterprise funds – *a fund that provides goods or services to the public for a fee that makes the entity self-supporting*. All operation and maintenance costs of the water & sewer system are financed from Ready to Serve (RTS) fees that are paid by customers every quarter.

On February 9, 2026, the Gaines Charter Township Board approved the rate resolution to establish the 2026 water & sewer rates. The “average” residential customer using 15,000 gallons per quarter will see their quarterly bill increase from \$133.91 to \$145.54 which equates to an overall increase of 8.7%. The new rates are effective January 1, 2026.

Water Ready to Serve Fee (RTS) – based on meter size and applicable to each domestic water meter account regardless of the consumption quantity.

<u>Meter Size (inches)</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	RTS is unchanged from last year
5/8", 3/4", 1"	\$22.99	\$22.99	per quarter
1-1/2"	\$77.26	\$77.26	per quarter
2"	\$135.86	\$135.86	per quarter

Larger meter size RTS fees are on our website.

Water Use Fee – the charge applicable to each 1,000 gallons of water that passes through the water meter will increase from \$3.10 to \$3.65.

Sanitary Sewer Rates – Just like water rates, wastewater rates consist of two separate charges. Sewer Ready to Serve Fee (RTS) is based on the water meter size and applicable to each account regardless of the consumption and a consumption charge applicable to each 1,000 gallons of water that passes through the domestic water meter.

Sewer Ready to Serve Fee (RTS)

<u>Meter Size (inches)</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	RTS is unchanged from last year
5/8", 3/4", 1"	\$22.03	\$22.03	per quarter
1-1/2"	\$74.01	\$74.01	per quarter
2"	\$130.15	\$130.15	per quarter

Larger meter size RTS fees are on our website.

Sewer Use Fee – the charge applicable to each 1,000 gallons of water that passes through the water meter will increase from \$3.95 to \$4.09.

Residents will be billed sanitary sewer at 74.6% (\$3.05 per 1,000 gallons) of total metered public water usage which assumes a portion of the water used is consumed outside therefore not going into the sewer system. If a separate sprinkling meter is installed, the metered usage shall be billed sewer consumption at 100% of total metered public water usage. There are NO Ready to Serve Fees billed for water on an irrigation meter nor is there sewer usage on an irrigation meter.