

## New Water Rates & Rate Structure

Effective November 3, 2009, the following rate structure will apply to all Lincoln Water Department customers.

0-48,000 gallons:	\$5.07 per 1,000 gallons
48,001-90,000 gallons:	\$7.79 per 1,000 gallons
>90,001 gallons:	\$16.68 per 1,000 gallons
Irrigation meters:	\$16.68 per 1,000 gallons

At the November, 2009 meeting of the Water Commissioners, the Board voted to raise the base water rate of \$4.83 which has been in place for over 10 years by 5%. This new rate will apply to the first 48,000 gallons (65 gallons per day per person for a family of four, per state guidelines) consumed during a six month billing cycle, the second tier rate of \$7.25 will increase by 7.5% and apply to consumption between 48,001 and 90,000 gallons, and the third tier rate of \$14.50 for consumption above 90,001 gallons and for separately metered lawn irrigation systems will increase by 15%. The semi-annual meter fee will increase from \$30 to \$40 per billing cycle also.

As an Enterprise Fund, the Department must balance its revenues and expenses annually, and this has become more difficult with wage and operating expenses increasing each year. Water conservation by Lincoln residents has also reduced revenues with no corresponding decrease in expenses. Initially, the decreasing revenues were offset by the tier system of charging residents for excess use above the guidelines, as suggested by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Water Management Act permit. We expect a new permit to be issued to the Town shortly and it will mandate additional conservation measures. Thus, we agree that a rate increase was necessary at this time.

While the Commissioners are sensitive to the current economic climate, we must maintain the financial health of the Department and want to encourage residents to monitor their water consumption and take steps to limit their outdoor water use. These actions will both reduce water bills and help the Town achieve compliance with the State's water management requirements

If you have questions about this rate increase, please contact us at 781-259-1326.