

Newspaper Articles Relating to JCW Billing Change

Below are excerpts from various articles appearing in newspapers serving Johnson County that relate to the change to a user-based billing system for wastewater services.

“User fee considered for wastewater service,” *Kansas City Star*, March 21, 2002.

In an effort to make all Johnson Countians pay their fair share for treated wastewater, residents soon may find a new bill in the mail every other month.

Sewer assessments – now found on a landowner’s annual property tax bill – would be figured on a water-usage basis under a plan being considered by county commissioners.

Johnson County Wastewater, which serves all county residents except those in Olathe, is the only sewer provider in the area that does not charge a user fee for wastewater services. . . .

“County looks to change wastewater billing,” *Kansas City Star*, May 24, 2002.

Beginning in January, residents of Johnson County might find a new bill in their mailbox every other month to cover the cost of wastewater treatment.

Johnson County commissioners reached a consensus Thursday to hire an outside vendor to replace the county’s wastewater billing system – an effort to charge more to those who use more water.

The county is expected to formally adopt the plan in two weeks.

The new billing plan would remove the cost of wastewater service from residents’ annual property tax bills and instead charge customers six times a year . . .

“Septic snag seeps into billing issue,” *Sun Publications*, May 29, 2002.

All wastewater district residents, regardless of whether or not they are using wastewater services, are charged a fee as part of their property bills. Department officials have said that a fee based on property values, in place since 1947, is unfair because the assessment does not accurately reflect sewer system usage.

County commissioners reached a consensus Thursday to have the county wastewater department begin billing its customers – residential, commercial and industrial – based on the amount of water they use starting Jan. 1. And those people who have septic systems and don’t use the sewer system at all, theoretically won’t have to pay the fee. . . .

“Wastewater vote delayed. Board to review billing plan revisions,” Kansas City Star, June 28, 2002.

Johnson County commissioners on Thursday delayed final approval of a new wastewater billing plan until they can read the fine print.

On a 3-2 vote, commissioners agreed to wait two weeks before acting on a plan that would send residents six bills a year to cover the cost of wastewater treatment.

Although all the commissioners support the new user fee, board members Annabeth Surbaugh, Susie Wolf and Doug Wood said they wanted to read new changes to a final resolution before voting on it. Commissioners are under pressure to enact the resolution so the new billing plan can begin Jan. 1.