

**TOWN OF MOREAU
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. 4 OF 2025
A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 115 OF THE MOREAU TOWN CODE
RELATING TO SEWER REGULATIONS**

Be it Enacted by the Moreau Town Board as Follows:

Section 1. Authority.

This Local Law amending portions of Chapter 115 of the Code of the Town of Moreau relating to sewer regulations is adopted pursuant to Section 10 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law and General Municipal Law Article 14-F.

Section 2. Town Code Section 115-8 (A) is amended by repealing the definition of SEWER RATES AND CHARGES.

Section 3. Town Code Section 115-63 is repealed and a new Section 115-63 is enacted to read as follows:

§ 115-63. Penalties for offenses.

A. Any person who fails to comply with any provision of Articles III through VIII of this Chapter shall be guilty of a violation, and each day of such violation shall be deemed a separate and distinct violation, and every conviction of such violation shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$250 or by imprisonment for a term not exceeding 15 days, or both. The Town Board may designate one or more Town officials or employees to commence appropriate judicial proceedings.

B. In addition to the penalties set forth in paragraph A, any person who fails to comply with any provision of Articles III through VIII of this Chapter shall be subject to a civil penalty not exceeding \$500 per day that such non-compliance continues. Such civil penalty, plus the cost to the Town to enforce compliance with this Chapter, plus the cost to the Town to repair or replace any damage to the sewer system caused by such non-compliance, shall be recovered in a civil action brought in the name of the Town in a court of competent jurisdiction, including as a small claim in justice court, as authorized by the Town Board.

Section 4. Town Code Section 115-70 is repealed and a new Section 115-70 is enacted to read as follows:

§ 115-70. Sewer charges.

A. The Town Board shall by resolution set the charges to be paid by the owner or owners of all properties within each sewer district or extension which shall include:

(1) a charge relating to the cost of operation and maintenance of the sewer system serving the sewer district or extension in just proportion to the benefit conferred on the property by the sewer system,

(2) a charge relating to the capital cost of constructing the sewer system serving the sewer district or extension, including the principle and interest on debt incurred, in just proportion to the benefit conferred on the property by the sewer system, and

(3) any additional charges including but not limited to those applicable to connections, tappings, permits, inspections, capacity, pre-treatment, late payments, and penalties.

B. A Town Board resolution setting sewer charges for the upcoming calendar year shall be adopted only after a public hearing. Notice of the public hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town, and posted on the Town's website, at least five days prior to the public hearing which shall be held at the first Town Board meeting that is held in the month of October. The Town Board resolution setting the charges for the upcoming calendar year shall be adopted at the second meeting of the Town Board held in the month of October, and such charges shall remain in effect until amended by a subsequent resolution.

C. Charges relating to operation and maintenance costs and charges relating to capital costs shall be set using a schedule of equivalent dwelling units (EDU) based on the benefit conferred on the property by the sewer system. Generally, the greater the use of the system by a particular property the higher number of EDUs it will be assigned. The Town Board resolution approving the sewer charges shall also approve the EDU schedule, and the EDU schedule shall be posted on the Town's website.

D. The charge relating to capital costs shall be paid by owners of all properties located within the district or extension regardless of whether the property is connected to the sewer system.

E. Properties located outside the sewer district or extension that are connected to the sewer system shall pay the same costs as properties located within the district or extension.

Section 5. Town Code Section 115-71 is repealed and a new Section 115-71 is enacted to read as follows:

§ 115-71. Billing.

- A. Sewer charges shall begin to accrue as of January 1 each year for use in that year and shall be billed as early in the year as practicable as determined by the Town Board.
- B. Property owners shall be billed annually but the Town Board may authorize monthly or semi-annual payments for properties assigned 20 or more EDUs. Charges shall be paid within 30 days of the billing, and late payments shall be subject to a late payment fee of ten percent per month after the initial 30-day payment period. Any payment accepted for an amount less than the amount due as stated on the bill shall be subject to the late payment fee on the original amount stated on the bill. Failure to receive a bill shall not relieve the property owner of the obligation to pay the sewer charges.
- C. The charges shall constitute a lien upon the real property served by the sewer system, and such lien shall be prior and superior to every other lien or claim except the lien of an existing tax, assessment or other lawful charge imposed by or for the State or a political subdivision or district.
- D. Delinquent sewer charges may be collected through municipal property assessments imposed pursuant to Section 452 of the General Municipal Law.

Section 6. Town Code Section 115-75 is repealed and a new Section 115-75 is enacted to read as follows:

§ 115-75. Agreements for service outside of the sewer district or extension.

Properties located outside the sewer district or an extension may be allowed to connect to the sewer system if the owner of the property first enters into a written agreement approved by the Town Board that commits the owner and successors to comply with this Chapter and commits the property to be included in a future sewer extension.

Section 7. Severability.

The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Local Law by a valid judgement of any court of competent jurisdiction shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision.

Section 8. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect upon filing in the office of the New York State Secretary of State.