

Concord City council

June 21, 2021

Hello, my name is Daniel Tullo, and I live at 16 New Castle Street in Concord. I am here today to request that the city council consider changing the way sewage bills are calculated during the summer irrigation season. I am suggesting that the city adopt the billing method used by Nashua referred to as winter water averaging. This method is commonly used throughout the country (San Diego, Dallas, Portland Ore, and Santa Rosa CA, to name a few).

Currently, as I'm sure you are all aware, the city uses water consumption to calculate the sewage bills, which is fine during the winter season when all the water consumed in a household is sent to the sewer system. As you are also aware this is not the case in the summer irrigation season. Much of the water usage is for watering gardens and other outdoor use and never goes into the sewer system. And yet the City of Concord knowingly, overcharges for sewage use during summer season. I'll repeat that, the City of Concord KNOWINGLY overcharges for an increase in a service that does not exist.

As an example, my average winter sewer bill is \$24.05 (January to May 2020), which increased in July 2020 to \$135.27 and in August to \$195.39, due to summer outdoor water usage. I did not increase my sewage use 8-fold yet I was charged for such an increase. To be honest, I am amazed that the City considers this to be acceptable. In a written reply the city states and I quote that "I must step forward to take advantage of installing a closed loop irrigation system (costing several thousand dollars) which is not assessed a sewage fee." I strongly disagree, it is not up to the consumer to correct an inaccurate billing practice. Additionally, a closed loop system works for maintaining a lawn but does not meet the needs of other seasonal outdoor water usages for example irrigating a large vegetable garden, the location of which is rotated seasonally to reduce the need for insecticides.

So again I am asking that the City of Concord change their sewage billing practices to the fair and honest method of winter water averaging. This will eliminate these summer spikes in charges and provide stability so utility customers know what their bill will be each billing cycle, and are not taken by surprise by a large seasonal increase.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter.

Daniel Tullo

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