

To: Mayor Pat Humphrey and the Clare City Commission
From: Steven J. Kingsbury, MBA, CPFA, MiCPT
Treasurer, Finance Director and
Director of Information Technology
Date: December 30, 2015
Reference: Treasurer's Report for January 4, 2016

Annual External Audit: The Annual Fiscal Audit and Financial Statements have been uploaded to and accepted by the Michigan Treasury. The Annual Qualifying Statement has been prepared, submitted to and approved by the Michigan Treasury. Michelle and myself have also completed the closing procedures/process for the FY2014/15 accounting period within the City's financial management software and completed all but one of the other annual reporting requirements.

Revenue Sharing: Enclosed for the City Commission's reference and use you will find a graphical presentation of the Constitutional, Statutory and Total Revenue Sharing along with two tabulated spreadsheets.

Reviewing these reports the Commission will note that during the past six fiscal years Constitutional Revenue Sharing has increased \$37,211 or 18.6%. However, during that same period of time Statutory Revenue Sharing has decreased \$20,612 or 29.1%. The important point in this observation is that Constitutional Revenue Sharing is set and determined by law whereas Statutory Revenue Sharing is determined by state legislators and the governor. Had Statutory Revenue Sharing been allowed to naturally increase as it had in the past (refer to the enclosed graph) the City of Clare during FY2014/15 would have received \$37,615 in additional Revenue Sharing which is a significant adverse impact upon our ability to serve the residents of our community. Cumulatively over the past thirteen years the Michigan legislature and governors have diverted more than \$1,400,000 in Revenue Sharing away from the City of Clare to fund state operations.

Water and Sewer Rate Comparison: For a number of years the City of Clare has participated in a comparison of water and sewer rates amongst 50 other communities throughout the State of Michigan. Enclosed for the City Commission's reference and use you will find the most recent city utility survey prepared as of March 2015. As the cost ranking reflects there are wide variations in the water and sewer rates charged that reflect the costs of providing those services which by law must be recouped by the municipality that is providing those services. Historically the City of Clare has been in the lower half of water rates, the upper half of sewer rates due to DEQ required improvements to our waste treatment plant and approximately average when these two services are combined.

On a related note I've included an article from June 1, 2014 that reported that the City of Flint which has been under state, federal and public scrutiny over the past several months for high levels of lead in their drinking water had the highest water and sewer rates of all municipalities in Genesee County. The monthly combined water and sewer rates of the twenty-five municipalities located in Genesee County are included at the end of the article.

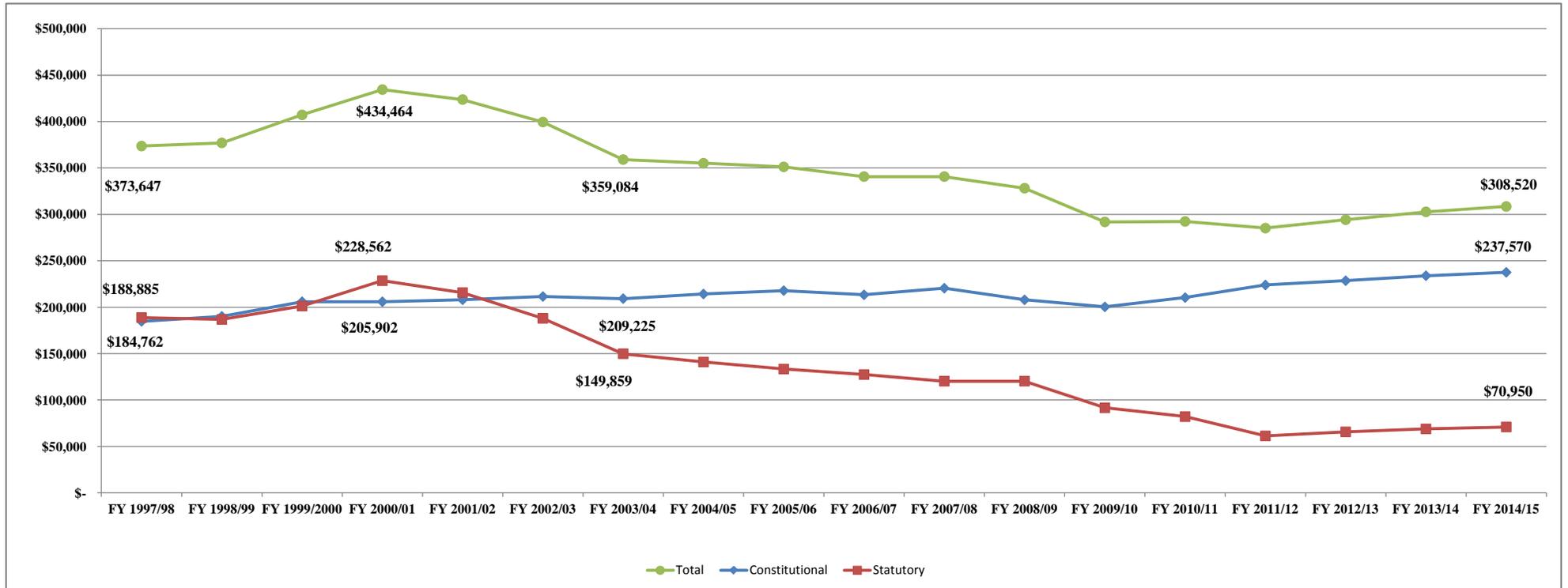
Revenue Sharing

Historical Analysis

FY1997/98 to FY2014/15

**City of Clare
State Revenue Sharing
As of the City's Fiscal Year**

	1997 - 1998	1998 - 1999	1999 - 2000	2000 - 2001	2001 - 2002	2002 - 2003	2003 - 2004	2004 - 2005	2005 - 2006	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009	2009 - 2010	2010 - 2011	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015
Total																		
Clare County	370,930	374,335	404,281	430,617	419,901	395,876	355,795	351,917	348,001	337,638	337,638	325,230	289,260	289,260	281,831	290,775	299,219	304,939
Isabella County	2,717	2,718	2,935	3,847	3,821	3,659	3,289	3,253	3,217	3,121	3,121	2,992	2,661	3,170	3,374	3,445	3,527	3,581
	373,647	377,053	407,216	434,464	423,722	399,535	359,084	355,170	351,218	340,759	340,759	328,222	291,921	292,430	285,205	294,220	302,746	308,520
Constitutional																		
Clare County	183,242	188,608	204,243	203,761	205,838	209,322	207,048	211,989	215,597	211,119	218,167	205,759	198,276	207,185	220,526	225,093	230,372	233,989
Isabella County	1,520	1,565	1,696	2,141	2,163	2,200	2,177	2,228	2,265	2,219	2,292	2,163	2,083	3,170	3,374	3,445	3,527	3,581
	184,762	190,173	205,939	205,902	208,001	211,522	209,225	214,217	217,862	213,338	220,459	207,922	200,359	210,355	223,900	228,538	233,899	237,570
Statutory																		
Clare County	187,688	185,727	200,038	226,856	214,063	186,554	148,747	139,928	132,404	126,519	119,471	119,471	90,984	82,075	61,305	65,682	68,847	70,950
Isabella County	1,197	1,153	1,239	1,706	1,658	1,459	1,112	1,025	952	902	829	829	578	0	0	0	0	0
	188,885	186,880	201,277	228,562	215,721	188,013	149,859	140,953	133,356	127,421	120,300	120,300	91,562	82,075	61,305	65,682	68,847	70,950



**City of Clare
State Revenue Sharing
Payments Received**

Calendar Year Receipts	Constitutional		Statutory/EVIP		Total
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	
2007	218,302.00	63.9%	123,496.00	36.1%	341,798.00
2008	219,556.00	64.3%	121,772.00	35.7%	341,328.00
2009	197,229.00	67.4%	95,343.00	32.6%	292,572.00
2010	205,834.00	69.8%	88,877.00	30.2%	294,711.00
2011	218,089.00	77.4%	63,791.00	22.6%	281,880.00
2012	227,351.00	78.2%	63,501.00	21.8%	290,852.00
2013	231,793.00	77.5%	67,264.00	22.5%	299,057.00
2014	238,227.00	77.3%	69,899.00	22.7%	308,126.00
2015 (4 of 6 Pmts Received)	194,886.00	76.7%	59,125.00	23.3%	254,011.00

City Fiscal Year Receipts	Constitutional		Statutory/EVIP		Total
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	
July - June					
FY2008/09	207,922.00	63.3%	120,300.00	36.7%	328,222.00
FY2009/10	201,551.00	69.0%	90,370.00	31.0%	291,921.00
FY2010/11	210,355.00	71.9%	82,075.00	28.1%	292,430.00
FY2011/12	223,900.00	78.5%	61,305.00	21.5%	285,205.00
FY2012/13	228,538.00	77.7%	65,682.00	22.3%	294,220.00
FY2013/14	233,899.00	77.3%	68,847.00	22.7%	302,746.00
FY2014/15	237,570.00	77.0%	70,950.00	23.0%	308,520.00
FY2015/16 (2 of 6 Pmts Received)	83,021.00	77.8%	23,650.00	22.2%	106,671.00

Bi-Monthly Receipts

Distribution Months Included	Constitutional		Statutory/EVIP		Total
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	
January and February 2007	35,440.00	77.8%	10,085.00	22.2%	45,525.00
January and February 2008	34,091.00	77.7%	9,797.00	22.3%	43,888.00
January and February 2009	28,412.00	73.8%	10,064.00	26.2%	38,476.00
January and February 2010	29,899.00	72.7%	11,231.00	27.3%	41,130.00
January and February 2011	32,535.00	84.4%	5,999.00	15.6%	38,534.00
January and February 2012	35,847.00	77.8%	10,215.00	22.2%	46,062.00
January and February 2013	34,965.00	76.2%	10,947.00	23.8%	45,912.00
January and February 2014	33,736.00	74.6%	11,475.00	25.4%	45,211.00
January and February 2015	35,835.00	75.2%	11,825.00	24.8%	47,660.00
March and April 2007	34,047.00	73.6%	12,219.00	26.4%	46,266.00
March and April 2008	34,297.00	80.4%	8,351.00	19.6%	42,648.00
March and April 2009	33,708.00	70.7%	13,943.00	29.3%	47,651.00
March and April 2010	34,363.00	80.2%	8,485.00	19.8%	42,848.00
March and April 2011 *	32,618.00	79.1%	8,595.00	20.9%	41,213.00
March and April 2012	36,308.00	78.0%	10,215.00	22.0%	46,523.00
March and April 2013	36,800.00	77.1%	10,947.00	22.9%	47,747.00
March and April 2014	38,738.00	77.1%	11,474.00	22.9%	50,212.00
March and April 2015	36,780.00	75.7%	11,825.00	24.3%	48,605.00

**City of Clare
State Revenue Sharing
Payments Received**

Bi-Monthly Receipts - Continued

Distribution Months Included	Constitutional		Statutory/EVIP		Total
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	
May and June 2007	34,565.00	55.9%	27,285.00	44.1%	61,850.00
May and June 2008	37,821.00	57.2%	28,245.00	42.8%	66,066.00
May and June 2009	32,455.00	60.8%	20,914.00	39.2%	53,369.00
May and June 2010	34,635.00	63.1%	20,232.00	36.9%	54,867.00
May and June 2011 *	38,265.00	67.3%	18,552.00	32.7%	56,817.00
May and June 2012	37,074.00	78.4%	10,230.00	21.6%	47,304.00
May and June 2013	38,651.00	77.9%	10,947.00	22.1%	49,598.00
May and June 2014	40,048.00	77.7%	11,475.00	22.3%	51,523.00
May and June 2015	39,250.00	76.8%	11,825.00	23.2%	51,075.00
July and August 2007	39,483.00	59.0%	27,472.00	41.0%	66,955.00
July and August 2008	37,481.00	57.8%	27,327.00	42.2%	64,808.00
July and August 2009	34,387.00	66.3%	17,443.00	33.7%	51,830.00
July and August 2010	36,022.00	64.8%	19,578.00	35.2%	55,600.00
July and August 2011 *	38,837.00	79.2%	10,215.00	20.8%	49,052.00
July and August 2012	40,538.00	78.7%	10,947.00	21.3%	51,485.00
July and August 2013	41,416.00	78.3%	11,474.00	21.7%	52,890.00
July and August 2014	42,273.00	78.1%	11,825.00	21.9%	54,098.00
July and August 2015	41,414.00	77.8%	11,825.00	22.2%	53,239.00
September and October 2006	36,906.00	59.0%	25,676.00	41.0%	62,582.00
September and October 2007	36,661.00	60.3%	24,091.00	39.7%	60,752.00
September and October 2008	39,250.00	61.8%	24,221.00	38.2%	63,471.00
September and October 2009	32,655.00	61.6%	20,352.00	38.4%	53,007.00
September and October 2010	32,939.00	65.5%	17,353.00	34.5%	50,292.00
September and October 2011	38,087.00	78.9%	10,215.00	21.1%	48,302.00
September and October 2012	38,310.00	77.8%	10,947.00	22.2%	49,257.00
September and October 2013	40,917.00	78.1%	11,475.00	21.9%	52,392.00
September and October 2014	42,830.00	78.4%	11,825.00	21.6%	54,655.00
September and October 2015	41,607.00	77.9%	11,825.00	22.1%	53,432.00
November and December 2006	34,593.00	59.3%	23,747.00	40.7%	58,340.00
November and December 2007	38,106.00	63.0%	22,344.00	37.0%	60,450.00
November and December 2008	36,616.00	60.6%	23,831.00	39.4%	60,447.00
November and December 2009	35,612.00	73.8%	12,627.00	26.2%	48,239.00
November and December 2010	37,976.00	76.0%	11,998.00	24.0%	49,974.00
November and December 2011	37,747.00	78.7%	10,215.00	21.3%	47,962.00
November and December 2012	39,274.00	78.2%	10,947.00	21.8%	50,221.00
November and December 2013	39,044.00	77.3%	11,474.00	22.7%	50,518.00
November and December 2014	40,602.00	77.4%	11,825.00	22.6%	52,427.00
	\$ 2,022,766.00	71.6%	\$ 802,491.00	28.4%	\$ 2,825,257.00

Footnotes:

The March/April 2011 payment includes a one-time adjustment of (\$1,689.00) to account for the 2010 Census changes.
The May/June 2011 payment includes an adjustment for the 2010 Census of \$3.
The July/August 2011 discretionary payment is based upon the new EVIP distribution (formerly referred to as Statutory).

City of Clare
State Revenue Sharing
Disbursements Received December 2006 through December 2015

Distribution Date / Months Included	Constitutional		Statutory		Total
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	
December 30, 2015 September and October 2015	\$ 41,607.00	77.9%	\$ 11,825.00	22.1%	\$ 53,432.00
October 30, 2015 July and August 2015	41,414.00	77.8%	11,825.00	22.2%	53,239.00
August 31, 2015 May and June 2015	39,250.00	76.8%	11,825.00	23.2%	51,075.00
June 30, 2015 March and April 2015	36,780.00	75.7%	11,825.00	24.3%	48,605.00
April 30, 2015 January and February 2015	35,835.00	75.2%	11,825.00	24.8%	47,660.00
February 27, 2015 November and December 2014	40,602.00	77.4%	11,825.00	22.6%	52,427.00
December 30, 2014 September and October 2014	42,830.00	78.4%	11,825.00	21.6%	54,655.00
October 31, 2014 July and August 2014	42,273.00	78.1%	11,825.00	21.9%	54,098.00
August 29, 2014 May and June 2014	40,048.00	77.7%	11,475.00	22.3%	51,523.00
June 30, 2014 March and April 2014	38,738.00	77.1%	11,474.00	22.9%	50,212.00
April 30, 2014 January and February 2014	33,736.00	74.6%	11,475.00	25.4%	45,211.00
February 28, 2014 November and December 2013	39,044.00	77.3%	11,474.00	22.7%	50,518.00
December 30, 2013 September and October 2013	41,416.00	78.3%	11,474.00	21.7%	52,890.00
October 31, 2013 July and August 2013	41,416.00	78.3%	11,474.00	21.7%	52,890.00
June 28, 2013 March and April 2013	36,800.00	77.1%	10,947.00	22.9%	47,747.00
April 30, 2013 January and February 2013	34,965.00	76.2%	10,947.00	23.8%	45,912.00
February 28, 2013 November and December 2012	39,274.00	78.2%	10,947.00	21.8%	50,221.00
December 31, 2012 July and August 2012	38,310.00	77.8%	10,947.00	22.2%	49,257.00

City of Clare
State Revenue Sharing
Disbursements Received December 2006 through December 2015

Distribution Date / Months Included	Constitutional		Statutory		Total
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	
October 31, 2012 July and August 2012	40,538.00	78.7%	10,947.00	21.3%	51,485.00
August 31, 2012 May and June 2012	37,074.00	78.4%	10,230.00	21.6%	47,304.00
June 29, 2012 March and April 2012	36,308.00	78.0%	10,215.00	22.0%	46,523.00
April 30, 2012 January and February 2012	35,847.00	77.8%	10,215.00	22.2%	46,062.00
February 29, 2012 November and December 2011	37,747.00	78.7%	10,215.00	21.3%	47,962.00
December 29, 2011 and January 3, 2012 September and October 2011	38,087.00	78.9%	10,215.00	21.1%	48,302.00
October 31, 2011 and November 1, 2011 July and August 2011	38,837.00	79.2%	10,215.00	20.8%	49,052.00
August 31, 2011 May and June 2011	38,265.00	67.3%	18,552.00	32.7%	56,817.00
June 30, 2011 March and April 2011*	32,618.00	79.1%	8,595.00	20.9%	41,213.00
April 29, 2011 January and February 2011	32,535.00	84.4%	5,999.00	15.6%	38,534.00
February 28, 2011 November and December 2010	37,976.00	76.0%	11,998.00	24.0%	49,974.00
December 29, 2010 September and October 2010	32,939.00	65.5%	17,353.00	34.5%	50,292.00
October 29, 2010 July and August 2010	36,022.00	64.8%	19,578.00	35.2%	55,600.00
August 31, 2010 May and June 2010	34,635.00	63.1%	20,232.00	36.9%	54,867.00
June 30, 2010 March and April 2010	34,363.00	80.2%	8,485.00	19.8%	42,848.00
April 30, 2010 January and February 2010	29,899.00	72.7%	11,231.00	27.3%	41,130.00
February 26, 2010 November and December 2009	35,612.00	73.8%	12,627.00	26.2%	48,239.00

City of Clare
State Revenue Sharing
Disbursements Received December 2006 through December 2015

Distribution Date / Months Included	Constitutional		Statutory		Total
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent	
December 30, 2009 September and October 2009	32,655.00	61.6%	20,352.00	38.4%	53,007.00
October 31, 2009 July and August 2009	34,387.00	66.3%	17,443.00	33.7%	51,830.00
August 31, 2009 May and June 2009	32,455.00	60.8%	20,914.00	39.2%	53,369.00
June 30, 2009 March and April 2009	33,708.00	70.7%	13,943.00	29.3%	47,651.00
April 30, 2009 January and February 2009	28,412.00	73.8%	10,064.00	26.2%	38,476.00
February 27, 2009 November and December 2008	36,616.00	60.6%	23,831.00	39.4%	60,447.00
December 30, 2008 September and October 2008	39,250.00	61.8%	24,221.00	38.2%	63,471.00
October 31, 2008 July and August 2008	37,481.00	57.8%	27,327.00	42.2%	64,808.00
August 29, 2008 May and June 2008	37,821.00	57.2%	28,245.00	42.8%	66,066.00
June 30, 2008 March and April 2008	34,297.00	80.4%	8,351.00	19.6%	42,648.00
April 30, 2008 January and February 2008	34,091.00	77.7%	9,797.00	22.3%	43,888.00
February 29, 2008 November and December 2007	38,106.00	63.0%	22,344.00	37.0%	60,450.00
December 28, 2007 September and October 2007	36,661.00	60.3%	24,091.00	39.7%	60,752.00
October 31, 2007 and November 16, 2007 July and August 2007	39,483.00	59.0%	27,472.00	41.0%	66,955.00
August 31, 2007 May and June 2007	34,565.00	55.9%	27,285.00	44.1%	61,850.00
June 29, 2007 March and April 2007	34,047.00	73.6%	12,219.00	26.4%	46,266.00
April 30, 2007 January and February 2007	35,440.00	77.8%	10,085.00	22.2%	45,525.00

City of Clare
State Revenue Sharing
Disbursements Received December 2006 through December 2015

<u>Distribution Date / Months Included</u>	<u>Constitutional</u>		<u>Statutory</u>		<u>Total</u>
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>	
February 28, 2007 November and December 2006	34,593.00	59.3%	23,747.00	40.7%	58,340.00
December 29, 2006 September and October 2006	36,906.00	59.0%	25,676.00	41.0%	62,582.00
	\$ 1,984,614.00		\$ 791,543.00		\$ 2,776,157.00
	71.5%		28.5%		100.0%

* The March/April 2011 payment includes a one-time adjustment of (\$1,689.00) to account for the 2010 Census changes.

Municipal Water and Sewer

Utility Cost Comparison

Prepared as of

March 2015

Cost Ranking for Water and Sewer Rates - As of March 2015

WATER			SEWER			COMBINED		
1	Holly	\$ 58.73	Holly	\$ 81.21	Holly	\$ 139.94		
2	South Haven	49.18	Constantine	78.55	Chelsea	107.14		
3	Williamston	45.64	Essexville	68.00	Essexville	105.71		
4	Chelsea	45.40	Chelsea	61.74	Williamston	103.10		
5	Imlay City	42.72	Williamston	57.46	Durand	94.05		
6	Durand	41.50	Bangor	55.62	Constantine	93.45		
7	Birch Run	41.45	Milan	53.83	South Haven	92.94		
8	Oxford	40.21	Durand	52.55	Bangor	90.25		
9	North Muskegon	38.14	Caro	52.40	Corunna	86.05		
10	Newaygo	37.92	Sturgis	49.98	Imlay City	84.72		
11	Essexville	37.71	Berrien Springs	49.83	Three Rivers	82.52		
12	Corunna	37.65	Three Rivers	48.84	Oxford	79.71		
13	Allegan	37.22	Corunna	48.40	Lowell	79.38		
14	Bangor	34.63	Rockford	48.03	Sturgis	77.53		
15	Lowell	34.34	Clare	47.63	Allegan	77.37		
16	Gun Lake	34.00	Mattawan	47.25	Rockford	77.33		
17	Three Rivers	33.68	Buchanan	46.97	Buchanan	77.02		
18	Paw Paw	31.15	Plainwell	45.60	Caro	76.48		
19	Springfield	30.64	Lowell	45.04	Newaygo	76.46		
20	Sparta	30.48	Brighton	44.51	Milan	74.58		
21	Buchanan	30.05	Parchment	44.27	Mattawan	73.87		
22	Coopersville	29.76	South Haven	43.76	Clare	73.92		
23	Rockford	29.30	Cedar Springs	43.31	Charlotte	71.25		
24	Hudsonville	28.71	Charlotte	42.58	Sparta	70.69		
25	Charlotte	28.67	Portland	43.07	Hudsonville	70.10		
26	Roosevelt Park	28.59	Ithaca	42.01	Cedar Springs	69.90		
27	Sturgis	27.55	Imlay City	42.00	Roosevelt Park	68.96		
28	Mattawan	26.62	Hudsonville	41.39	Portland	68.91		
29	Cedar Springs	26.59	Roosevelt Park	40.37	Springfield	67.89		
30	Saint Louis	26.51	Sparta	40.21	Berrien Springs	67.31		
31	Clare	26.29	Allegan	40.15	Parchment	67.13		
32	Portland	25.84	Oxford	39.50	Plainwell	66.46		
33	Vicksburg	24.80	Middleville	39.25	Saint Louis	65.18		
34	Caro	24.08	Otsego	38.72	Brighton	64.96		
35	Dowagiac	23.22	Saint Louis	38.67	Ithaca	64.69		
36	Ferrysburg	22.91	Newaygo	38.54	North Muskegon	62.39		
37	Parchment	22.86	Springfield	37.25	Gun Lake	60.00		
38	Ithaca	22.68	Hastings	36.29	Birch Run	59.84		
39	Hartford	21.87	Belding	35.85	Middleville	58.65		
40	Plainwell	20.86	Dowagiac	34.21	Vicksburg	58.05		
41	Milan	20.75	Wayland	33.84	Coopersville	57.48		
42	Brighton	20.45	Greenville	33.46	Dowagiac	57.43		
43	Wayland	19.63	Vicksburg	33.25	Hastings	53.79		
44	Middleville	19.40	Hartford	30.98	Paw Paw	53.77		
45	Belding	17.63	Ferrysburg	29.30	Belding	53.48		
46	Hastings	17.50	Coopersville	27.72	Wayland	53.47		
47	Berrien Springs	17.48	Gun Lake	26.00	Hartford	52.85		
48	Constantine	14.90	North Muskegon	24.25	Otsego	52.34		
49	Otsego	13.62	Paw Paw	22.62	Ferrysburg	52.21		
50	Greenville	13.59	Birch Run	18.39	Greenville	47.05		
	AVG: \$ 29.50		AVG: \$ 43.29		AVG: \$ 72.80			

Flint monthly water and sewer bills highest in Genesee County by \$35



City employees and elected officials raise glasses of treated water from the Flint River during a toast in a ceremony stopping the intake of water from Detroit in this Flint Journal file photo at the Flint Water Treatment Plant. The city will use the Flint River as its primary water source as the Karegnondi Water Authority pipeline is built.

By [Dominic Adams | dadams5@mlive.com](#)

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Flint charges \$35 more per month in water and sewer rates than the next highest municipality in Genesee County, and \$90 more than the lowest.

And what are Flint residents getting for that higher cost?

Their own water system, Flint River water that is more than twice as hard as the previous Lake Huron water from Detroit and an aging infrastructure.

An MLive-Flint Journal analysis of water and sewer rates in 25 communities in Genesee County shows Flint is tops with \$140 per month.

And city officials warn that cost is likely going up.

Even though Flint has switched off from the Detroit water that supplies the rest of the county, city officials say the cost may go up to \$149 under Emergency Manager Darnell Earley's proposed budget.

Those continued rate increases have made the decision easier for former residents like Kayla Carroll to leave Flint.

Carroll, who moved to Burton three months ago, has twice as many people living with her now than when she lived on Flint's southeast side.

And after her two months worth of water bills in Burton, she said still hasn't matched what it would've cost when she lived less than a mile away in Flint.

"I'm a hell of a lot happier," said Carroll, who lives close to the Flint city line near Camden Avenue and Hemphill Road. "I have twice as many people and it's still less than half of what it was."

The average resident in Flint pays \$140 per month, while the average Burton home pays less than \$58.

After Flint, Montrose has the next highest water and sewer rates at \$104.65 a month, followed by Linden at \$100.93.

Genesee Township residents have the cheapest rates in the county, paying just \$50.33 per month. Beecher is the next lowest at \$52.88 and then Burton at \$57.46.

Nijal Williams doesn't like that he pays almost \$65 more per month in Flint for his water than a Burton customer does who lives less than 100 yards away.

"Why are we not getting our water from the same place that Burton is so our water will be as cheap," he said. "Knowing that we pay the highest rate and live in one of the most crime-ridden areas makes me feel not good. It's like we're getting taken advantage of."

Williams used to live in Burton, so he said he knew water rates were cheaper there.

He said Flint's skyrocketing water bills has been a crucial budgeting factor for him.

"They're raising these rates at such a high rate that we're losing property taxes, income taxes and we're losing students at Flint Community Schools," said city council President Scott Kincaid. "They don't realize the long-term effects that's going to have."

Kincaid **filed a federal lawsuit earlier this month** claiming the city charged more than was allowed when it raised water and sewer rates in 2011. A similar suit was dismissed in Genesee Circuit Court last year.

"The people I feel really sorry for are the senior citizens who are on a fixed income and can't afford to move," Kincaid said. "They've become prisoners."

While Beecher, Davison, Fenton, Grand Blanc and Linden all have their own municipal water systems, a majority of municipalities purchase their water through Genesee County.

Rates in Flint are higher than every municipality on the county's water system.

Residents in the communities with their own systems often have to pay special assessments for infrastructure improvements, which can result in higher rates.

"I hope people read this and move to Beecher," said Kevin Forbes, administrative superintendent with the Beecher Metropolitan District. "The crux of the problem is the population loss. We're the cheapest around."

Genesee County pays Detroit to pipe treated Lake Huron water here and then sends it throughout the county.

Flint residents began **drinking treated Flint River water** earlier this month. The city is using the river while the Karegnondi Water Authority builds its pipeline from Lake Huron to Genesee County.

The project is expected to be complete sometime in 2016, at which time Flint and the 17 other municipalities in Genesee County will switch over to the KWA.

"We understand that the rates for utilities in the city of Flint are higher than the surrounding communities," Flint Finance Director Jerry Ambrose **told a crowd of people during a water forum** April 17.

"I don't even flush my toilet but once a day," a woman at the forum yelled in frustration.

Water and sewer rates will increase by a total of **6.5 percent under the city's proposed budget** for the 2015 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

"Reducing rates by eliminating expenditures for critically needed upgrades and repairs is a disservice to current and future users of the system," **Ambrose told The Flint Journal** for an April 15 story. "The cost for future users will be even higher if needed infrastructure investments are put off."

Flint's aging system is the main reason why water rates in the city are so much higher.

Midway through April, Flint officials said there were more than 250 water main breaks. Genesee County had seven.

"I don't, within the county, have the cost of maintaining that system," Genesee County Deputy Drain Commissioner John O'Brien previously said.

The following list ranks the monthly water and sewer rates throughout Genesee County. The figures were provided by the Genesee County Water and Waste Services or individual municipalities.

1. Flint: \$140.02
2. Montrose: \$104.65
3. Linden: \$100.93
4. Davison: \$91.49
5. Flushing: \$89.61

6. Grand Blanc Township: \$83.86
7. Clio: \$83.19
8. Vienna Township: \$83.01
9. Richfield Township: \$76.76
10. Flushing Township: \$72.85
11. Mt. Morris Township: \$72.38
12. Montrose Township: \$70.21
13. Swartz Creek: \$69.20
14. Clayton Township: \$68..87
15. Gaines Township: \$68.18
16. Fenton: \$67.74
17. Flint Township: \$63.95
18. Davison Township: \$63.82
19. Grand Blanc: \$62.46
20. Thetford Township: \$60.16
21. Mundy Township: \$59.79
22. Mt. Morris: \$57.89
23. Burton: \$57.46
24. Beecher: \$52.88
25. Genesee Township: \$50.33

Dominic Adams is a reporter for The Flint Journal. Contact him at dadams5@mlive.com or 810-241-8803. Follow him on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [Google+](#).

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