

TYPE: Ordinance
SUBMITTED BY: Lisa Lucht
DEPARTMENT: Public Works
DATE: 08/25/2026

DESCRIPTION:

**Finance: Ordinance of the Village of Bensenville, DuPage and Cook Counties, Illinois
Amending 8-6-18-1 of the Bensenville Village Code with Regard to User and Surcharge Rates**

COMMITTEE ACTION:

N/A

DATE:

BACKGROUND:

The Village's wastewater treatment facility must treat sewage from all customers in the service area. Domestic wastewater from residential properties tends to be lower in pollutant concentrations. Wastewater with higher pollutant concentrations, like that from some industrial customers, is more costly to treat. Establishing Surcharge Rates for the treatment of high-strength wastewater from businesses allows the Village to recover the extra costs to treat a higher wastewater pollutant load and makes industries pay their fair share.

While current Surcharge Rates are in use, it is unclear when or how they were established. Baxter & Woodman, Inc. conducted a Surcharge Rate Study to analyze the wastewater treatment plant efficiency, current costs to treat high-strength wastewater, and establish equitable rates for the treatment of specific pollutants. This study provides the needed background calculations, providing a legal basis for the surcharge rate development.

KEY ISSUES:

Increasing high-strength wastewater surcharges covers the cost of rising operational, chemical, and energy costs of treating industrial and commercial wastewater that exceeds normal pollutant thresholds. These charges are only applied to the permitted industries that are included in the Village's Pretreatment Program.

Rates are applied for industrial wastewater containing high concentrations of Biochemical Oxygen Demand, Total Suspended Solids, and Total Phosphorus. The study recommended removing the surcharge rate for the treatment of Ammonia, and replacing it with Total Phosphorus, which requires chemical treatment and will require more advanced treatment in the future due to environmental compliance.

An annual increase of 3% per year is proposed for the next 5 years to cover increased costs and inflation. These multi-year rates are included in the Ordinance to be applied automatically starting on January 1, 2027 and continuing with a 3% increase each year until 2031.

Currently, there are fourteen (14) industries registered in our surcharge program.

ALTERNATIVES: Discretion of the Village Board

BUDGET IMPACT: Increased high-strength surcharge rates will not impact residential constituents, but will increase revenues from industries by an estimated \$40,000 per year. This additional revenue is dependent on pollutant discharge concentrations, water usage, and changes in industries. Increased surcharges help to shield regular residential customers from absorbing the cost of heavy industrial wastewater treatment.

ACTION REQUIRED: Approval of an Ordinance of the Village of Bensenville, DuPage and Cook Counties, Illinois Amending 8-6-18-1 of the Bensenville Village Code with Regard to User and Surcharge Rates

ATTACHMENTS:

[ORD - User Charge & Surcharge Industrial Waste Cost Recovery.pdf](#)