

## Why Do I Pay a Minimum Bill For Zero Usage?

The Village of Mt. Orab and many communities have a minimum bill for all accounts even if the property is unoccupied. The reason for a minimum charge is that the water system has **fixed costs** to get water to your home. We have pipes in the ground transporting the water, towers above ground storing water, pumps filling reservoirs, and a treatment plant operating even if you decide to not use any water. Our minimum water bill is set for 2000 gallons of usage, at a charge of \$20.00 (inside the village).

The fixed cost for Mt. Orab Sewer is driven by the infrastructure needed to collect and treat the sewer within Mt. Orab corporation limits. Mt. Orab Sewer maintains gravity sewer mains, pressure sewer mains, and lift stations to get the wastewater to the treatment facility. The treatment facility separates the solids from the wastewater and then the solids have to be disposed of. Our minimum sewer is set for 2000 gallons of usage at a cost of \$24.00.

The EPA charges the Utilities for permits to operate both the Water and Wastewater Treatment Facilities. They also charge for the amount of drinking water treated and the amount of sludge disposed of. The Railroad charges a right of way fee for every water and sewer pipe that goes under their tracks. ODNR also has a fee to operate a reservoir with a dam.

We have, a **contract with Rumpke that provides garbage pickup** and it is based on the number of properties in the village. There is no way to turn off this service. Each property owner must pay **\$16.40 per month** toward the contract.

The minimum bills help keep the facilities and related infrastructure operating correctly to provide a needed service for everyone.

Kind regards,  
Village of Mt. Orab PBA