

Reverend Wood
First Baptist Church
47 Church Street
Gardiner, Maine 04345

March 30, 2005

Subject: Church Billing

Dear Reverend Wood,

The Wastewater Advisory Committee has reviewed and discussed the idea of Churches being given a break on sewer charges while spreading the costs among the rest of the users.

The Wastewater Advisory Committee understands the churches' position. A bill that is based approximately three-quarters on fixed cost at 100% potential use seems to cause high bills for buildings that are perhaps used sparingly and only occasionally at full capacity.

From time to time the Advisory Committee as well as Wastewater Staff hear concerns from many groups of users in relationship to the cost of sewer bills. The same explanation is given. The underlying problem is that we are supporting 100% costs for a plant utilized at 55% due to the loss of industry.

The Wastewater Advisory Committee has reviewed and recommends the following process for changing the Maine State Plumbing Code on which we base one part of our bills. This is one possible avenue that the churches or any other interested party may want to explore. This process includes the churches submitting information to the state which the state will consider and make a determination whether to change, or not, the daily volume in gallons per day on which we base bills. Chuck Applebee would be able to assist you with information to begin this process.

We appreciate your time and concern for this most important matter. The committee will be sending the attached recommendation to the City Council. You are welcome to attend a city council meeting and speak to the issue.

Sincerely,

Charles Batchelder, Wastewater Advisory Chair

