

# CUMBERLAND MUNICIPAL UTILITY

November 2023



## UNDERSTANDING YOUR UTILITY BILL

**WHEN COMPARING YOUR UTILITY BILL WITH THAT OF A NEIGHBOR, FRIEND OR RELATIVE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP THE FOLLOWING KEY FACTORS IN MIND:**

1.) Cumberland Municipal Utility includes electric, water and sewer in the same bill.

This may not compare directly with billing from other utility companies. Customers of other utilities may receive a bill which only includes electricity, or they may have a bill that includes electricity and water, but not sewer.

2.) When customers compare their energy and/or water consumption to their friend or neighbor's consumption, the comparison does not tell the whole story.

Everyone has unique needs and priorities. Your neighbor may be older than you, may be single or may have a household of five, so their consumption will, of course, be different than yours. No two families live alike, so no two utility bills are the same.

3.) Comparing your monthly bill to anyone else's would be like comparing your weekly grocery bill.

Two families of four will never spend exactly the same amount on food, because their tastes and habits are different.

4.) Many factors drive energy use. It is best to compare your current usage to your past energy usage and consider making changes in your habits.

Often times, customers don't realize how much the small things can add up.

**LOOK AT YOUR OWN HABITS AND YOUR HOME'S CONDITION, AND ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- Do you leave lights on in rooms you are not using?
- Are you using energy-efficient light bulbs?
- Are your water heater settings too high?
- How well is your home insulated?
- Are you running a dehumidifier?
- Are you washing and drying multiple small loads of laundry?
- Do you take long, hot showers or baths?
- Does the TV keep you company even when you are not watching it?
- Are you cleaning the lint filter in your dryer?

### CONTACT US

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***In the upcoming newsletters, we will continue to breakdown and explain the different components of your Cumberland Municipal Utility bill. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your usage or your bill, we would appreciate it if you would call our office directly.***

## WHAT IS PILOT?

A payment in lieu of taxes (sometimes abbreviated as PILOT, or sometimes PILT) is a payment made to compensate a government for some or all the property tax revenue lost due to tax exempt ownership or use of real property.

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) states that the maximum tax equivalent for a municipal water or electric utility shall be determined by applying the local and school tax rates to the gross book value of the plant plus materials and supplies multiplied by the assessment ratio for the municipality.

For the fiscal year of 2022 Cumberland Municipal Utility contributed over \$350,000.00 to the City of Cumberland. By contributing to the property tax base, this lessens the dollar amount that the citizens of Cumberland need to contribute.

The City of Cumberland uses the property taxes to support a variety of initiatives for the public, including streets, police department, fire department, community development, library, parks and recreation, etc.

## UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES:

Thanksgiving: November 23 & November 24, 2023

Christmas: December 25 & December 26, 2023

New Years Day: January 1, 2024

## HELP KEEP OUR METER READERS SAFE!

We strive to provide you with an accurate and timely utility bill. Accuracy begins with safely reading your meter every month. We provide a bill for the actual amount of electricity and/or water you use. We read meters as close to the last day of each month as possible.

**\*\*\*WE REQUIRE SAFE AND UNOBSTRUCTED ACCESS TO OUR METERS EACH MONTH FOR MONTHLY METER READINGS\*\*\***

***THE FOLLOWING TIPS WILL HELP ENSURE YOUR METER IS EASY TO REACH, HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AND PETS AND HELP OUR METER READERS DO THEIR JOBS SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY:***

- Keep your sidewalks and areas around your meters clear.
- Always maintain a clean pathway to your meters.
- Keep the path clear of snow and ice.
- Keep vegetation – from flowers to weeds – clear of the meter.
- Please make sure your meters are not blocked by shrubs, trees, locked gates, overgrown garden or construction work.
- If you own a pet, for the safety of your pet and our meter readers, please secure your pet to allow us to read the meter.
- Never tie a pet to your meter.

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US READ YOUR METER SAFELY!**

## 2024 CALENDARS ARE HERE!

We have free 2024 calendars! Please stop by our office to pick one up today!



## CUMBERLAND MUNICIPAL UTILITY HAS FILED A CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN TO CONSTRUCT A NEW SHOP/GARAGE UTILITY BUILDING.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### • Overview

Cumberland Utility currently uses three different buildings for Utility vehicle storage, equipment storage, electric and water meter testing areas, offices, and break room areas.

#### • Why is the new building needed?

This project will provide services for the design and construction of a new Utility Shop that provides vehicle and equipment storage as well as enclosed areas for offices, break room, electric testing room and water testing room. In addition, Ardisam, Inc. is growing rapidly and needs to purchase our current facility in order to expand their warehouse capacity as well as have all of their facilities in the same Industrial Park area.

#### • How will this project affect my electric and rates?

At this time, after the sale of the current facility to Ardisam, the rate impact will be minimal. The electric rate impact for future rate studies is estimated to be less than 2% and the impact to water rates for future rate studies would be less than 3%. Cumberland Utility does not anticipate any impact on its current rates at this time.

#### • Will this project affect my sewer rates?

This building will only house our electric and water departments and has no effect on sewer rates.

#### • Will this project affect my property taxes?

This project has no impact on your property taxes. Revenue from electric and water rates will be used to fund this project.