

Town of Salina

Sanitary Sewer Offset Policy-8/23/2021

When the Town experiences heavy rainfalls, considerable volumes of clean water get into the sanitary sewer system. This happens through leaking manholes and manhole covers, leaks in publicly owned sanitary sewers, leaks in sewer laterals that connect from the street sewers to homes and businesses, and water that comes from building footing drain connections that were permitted years ago, but are not permitted now. These large amounts of clean water cause sewer backups into basements and can cause sewer overflows that pollute our waterways. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection (OCWEP) require, due to these excessive flows, efforts to remove enough clean water from the system in order to provide capacity for the sewage from a new development. This is clearly to help make sure the existing problems don't get worse when more sanitary sewage is added.

Costs for various maintenance and improvements that can be undertaken to remove clean water were provided to the Town by OCWEP. Using this information, the cost for removing a gallon of clean water from the sanitary sewer has been calculated to be \$4.00. For example, if a proposed development will add 1,000 gallons of sewage to the sewer system, 1,000 gallons of clean water will need to be removed to compensate. The project sponsor will therefore need to pay a one-time Sanitary Sewer Offset Charge of \$4,000 to allow the Town to undertake necessary maintenance or repair. The amount of sewage to be added is determined by the proposed developments estimated additional water usage. If there was a previous development on the same property, the record water usage will be taken into consideration.

According to both the NYSDEC and OCWEP, and subsequently the Town, some developments are exempt. These include industrial developments and limited projects, like construction of a single or two-family home that will add less than 750 gallons of sewage to the sewer system every day.

This policy, as adopted by the Town Board, is in effect as of 8/23/2021. It will likely need to remain in effect until the Town no longer has a problem with sanitary sewer backups or overflows due to excessive clean water in the sanitary sewer system.