



MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF LOWER SWATARA TOWNSHIP

1499 SPRING GARDEN DRIVE, MIDDLETOWN, PENNSYLVANIA 17057
PHONE 717/939-7633 • FAX 717/939-5682

September 2020

Dear Lower Swatara Resident / Property Owner:

During an advertised meeting on April 9, 2020, the Lower Swatara Township Municipal Authority (LSTMA) approved Resolution 2020-R-2 to adopt a Stormwater Management Fee (SMF). This fee has been adopted in accordance with the requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to develop an MS4 program.

MS4 is a shortened form for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. MS4s are conveyances or systems of conveyances including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or storm drains that are owned or operated by a public entity such as Lower Swatara Township or Lower Swatara Township Municipal Authority. MS4s are designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater, and are not a combined sewer or part of a publicly-owned treatment works. More detailed information can be found on the PA DEP website, in the "Quick Resource Guide to the MS4 Program". South-central Pennsylvania has been tasked by the PA DEP and the US EPA to reduce the negative impacts of stormwater runoff in order to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

The SMF for residential properties as approved in Resolution 2020-R-2 is \$7 per month. The SMF for non-residential properties is based upon the number of square feet of impervious surface. ***The non-residential properties will be charged \$7 per ERU.*** The measure of an ERU, Equivalent Residential Unit, is 3,750 square feet which for Lower Swatara MS4 properties is set at \$7 per month, per ERU.

This charge will be added to the monthly sewer bill. The September sewer bills, which will be mailed in early October, will include this MS4 fee.

At the outset, credits are available for commercial properties only. The Lower Swatara MS4 Credit Policy can be found on the Lower Swatara Township website, LowerSwatara.org

In July, Lower Swatara Township hired Brian Davis as the MS4 Coordinator. Questions can be directed to Brian. His email address is BDavis@LowerSwatara.org. I anticipate many calls and emails, I ask for your patience, we are committed to returning calls, emails, etc.

I am a resident of Lower Swatara Township. Some time ago, I signed up for a deduction each month from my checking account, initiated by the Lower Swatara sewer billing department, to pay my monthly sewer bill and soon my monthly combination bill of sewer and MS4 fee. There are many other residents of the township who also participate in this. Please note the deductions from your checking account in October and future months will now reflect this increased amount. If you are interested in this automatic method of payment, please contact Tracey Bechtel who works in the sewer billing department, TBechtel@LowerSwatara.org. Since partial payments will be applied to the MS4 fee first and the balance will be applied to the sewer portion of the bills, those residents who do not participate in this automatic deduction form of payment, but who pay electronically, must take the steps necessary to pay this new monthly amount on your sewer bills.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. There is much information on this mandate that I am not able to cover with this letter. If you are interested in learning more, the PA DEP website has a great amount of information on the MS4 program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Elizabeth McBride".

M, Elizabeth McBride
Lower Swatara Township Manager