**Why am I being billed a Storm Water Fee?**

Star City users connected to or draining into the public storm water system shall pay a share of the actual cost of the operation, maintenance of, improvements to and necessary additions to the storm water system. This includes the cost of all storm water related engineering, permitting and complying with MS4 regulations. The public storm water system is inclusive of all ditches, pipes, streams and the Monongahela River within the corporate limits of Star City and extending to customers outside the Town that have city water and or sewage service provided by the Town. All funds collected shall be accounted for separately and shall be used solely for the construction, operation and maintenance of the storm water system.

Federal regulations (Clean Water Act) issued in 1999 established a permit requirement for small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) discharges which required states to set up a permit program by March of 2003. West Virginia issued a General NPDES permit WV0116025 on March 7, 2003. Each MS4 had to develop a Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) that defines how they are going to implement this program as per the permit requirements.

Star City’s first SWMP was approved in March of 2005.

Morgantown started charging a storm water fee to cover the costs of this extensive MS4 program and their storm water system costs years ago and set up an entire Department to handle it in. Star City has been operating the Town’s Storm Water system and MS4 program using general funds till the Storm Water Ordinance 934 was amended on October 11, 2016 to include the storm water fees. Maintaining the MS4 permitting, procedures, inspections, record keeping, mapping, enforcement and the storm water sewer system is placing a burden on the finances of the Town. The Town must have adequate and stable funding for the MS4 program and capital investments needs.

Copies of the Storm water Ordinance and SWMP can be found on the Star City web site or at Town Hall. More MS4 information is available on WVDEP web site including copies of the General NPDES permit WV0116025.

FEES

Single-family residential dwelling, which includes rental units shall be $5.88 per unit per month

Multi-unit properties shall be billed to each unit, if said tenants, each have an individual city water meter.

The property owner shall be billed per rental unit, if tenants do not have individual drinking water service meters.

Commercial property not residential shall be billed a monthly rate as follows:

$2.35(dollars) per 1,000 square feet of impervious area on the property. Properties with a

combination of rental units & commercial units will be billed for each rental unit, the square footage of the rental units will be subtracted from the area calculation of the impervious area.

Town council may, from time to time, by ordinance, change these rates.

Please take the following survey and drop your answers off at Town Hall.

1. Do you understand the reasons Star City incorporated Storm Water Fees? Yes No

2. Do you visit the Star City Web Site? Yes No

3. Do you think maintaining water quality is important? Yes No

4. Do you understand how storm water fees are calculated? Yes No

5. Did you know Morgantown has been charging these fees for over 10 years? Yes No

6. Would you attend a Storm Water Public Education Event? Yes No

Comments:

If you have questions about the Storm Water Program please leave your comments or submit them in writing to the Utility Clerk at Town Hall. We will provide answers in fliers or address them in Town Council meetings. If your questions are detailed and you want an individual reply please include your name and contact information.