



City of Evar
5814 100th Avenue
Evar, Michigan 49631
Phone: 231-734-2181
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www.evart.org

City Manager
Treasurer/Assessor
Sarah Dvoracek
sarah.dvoracek@evart.org

City Clerk
Heather Pattee
cityclerk@evart.org

Department of Public Works
Director/Zoning
Administrator/Airport
Manager
Mark Wilson
mark.wilson@evart.org

Chief of Police
John Beam Jr.
john.beam@evart.org



April 30, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
From: Sarah Dvoracek, City Manager

Re: Ventra Sewer Credit Request – Meter Calibration Issue

In March 2019, Joe Kasperlik, Controller at Ventra, called with concerns regarding the sewer usage at 601 West Seventh Street. Mr. Kasperlik stated it was not possible for the recorded amounts to be entering the city sewer system. After researching the situation, it was discovered Ventra had increased production hours in addition to adding another production line. The city staff was not alarmed by the sewer usage, as the water usage had also increased significantly. We also confirmed the sewer meter is Ventra's property and as such, the responsibility of repairs and maintenance to the meter falls to Ventra. We informed Mr. Kasperlik of these facts in March and again in April when he called regarding the high sewer usage.

Patrick Muczynski, Lead Wastewater Operator for the city, verified all readings recorded in the months of January 2019 through April 2019 were accurate according to the meter.

Ventra is requesting a sewer credit in the amount of \$45,992.00. Please see attached documents from Ventra for more details.

It is my recommendation to deny the sewer credit.

blm



Evart City Hall
 5814 100th Avenue
 Evart, MI 49631

4/29/2019

Dear Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

We are writing to request a refund for a portion of Ventra Evart's sewer charges for the period of January 1, 2019 thru April 30, 2019 due to a meter calibration issue.

After extensive internal investigation to identify the root cause of the increased sewer charges, we enlisted the aid of a third-party to calibrate the sewer meter located at our facility. Findings indicated that the meter was not operating properly due to a broken support cable as well as significant debris build up. The opinion of the technician was that both of these variables caused "significant bearing on the flow readings." The aforementioned issues were addressed on 4/16/19. The full service report is attached for your review.

In an analysis of our historical usage, we identified that our sewer usage as a percentage of overall water usage was consistent at 18% for 2017-2018. Beginning in January 2019 we started seeing drastically elevated readings that continued to climb. Detailed information is provided below.

2019 Usage Data				2018 Usage Data				2017 Usage Data			
	Sewer Usage	Water Usage	%		Sewer Usage	Water Usage	%		Sewer Usage	Water Usage	%
Jan-19	3,916,120	12,084,700	32%	Jan-18	1,761,940	11,504,700	15%	Jan-17	1,725,900	8,906,850	19%
Feb-19	4,089,730	11,990,200	34%	Feb-18	1,798,860	13,384,050	13%	Feb-17	1,743,850	7,543,350	23%
Mar-19	4,552,690	9,908,950	46%	Mar-18	1,616,840	10,309,850	16%	Mar-17	1,756,390	11,972,250	15%
				Apr-18	1,862,160	12,431,000	15%	Apr-17	1,661,240	7,763,550	21%
				May-18	1,820,680	9,714,150	19%	May-17	1,699,600	7,473,500	23%
				Jun-18	1,460,930	9,664,750	15%	Jun-17	1,652,610	8,338,450	20%
				Jul-18	1,898,320	9,568,300	20%	Jul-17	1,057,660	8,963,250	12%
				Aug-18	2,290,310	9,062,500	26%	Aug-17	1,824,780	8,876,550	21%
				Sep-18	2,416,640	10,111,950	24%	Sep-17	1,560,220	10,880,400	14%
				Oct-18	2,418,240	11,002,500	22%	Oct-17	1,480,420	8,351,150	18%
				Nov-18	1,290,520	9,966,250	13%	Nov-17	1,294,830	8,630,450	15%
				Dec-18	2,226,460	10,583,200	21%	Dec-17	1,736,370	9,293,700	19%
Totals	12,858,540	33,983,860	37%	Totals	22,883,900	127,303,200	18%	Totals	18,183,870	107,013,480	18%

We believe that incorrect meter readings resulted in elevated charges that do not accurately reflect our sewer usage. If we utilize the historical rate of 18%, we would have overpaid for sewer usage in the amount of \$45,992. We would respectfully request that you review this proposal and consider issuing Ventra a refund in this amount.

2019 Sewer Cost Data			
	Billed Cost	Estimated	Variance
Jan-19	\$ 27,961	\$ 15,531	\$(12,430)
Feb-19	\$ 29,201	\$ 15,410	\$(13,791)
Mar-19	\$ 32,506	\$ 12,735	\$(19,771)
	Refund Requested		\$(45,992)

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


 Chad Leiter – General Manager


 Joe Kasperlik - Controller

Ventra Evert Historical Sewer and Water Usage

2019 Usage Data			
	<u>Sewer Usage</u>	<u>Water Usage</u>	%
Jan-19	3,916,120	12,084,700	32%
Feb-19	4,089,730	11,990,200	34%
Mar-19	4,552,690	9,908,950	46%
Totals	12,558,540	33,983,850	37%

2018 Usage Data			
	<u>Sewer Usage</u>	<u>Water Usage</u>	%
Jan-18	1,761,940	11,504,700	15%
Feb-18	1,798,860	13,384,050	13%
Mar-18	1,616,840	10,309,850	16%
Apr-18	1,862,160	12,431,000	15%
May-18	1,820,680	9,714,150	19%
Jun-18	1,460,930	9,664,750	15%
Jul-18	1,898,320	9,568,300	20%
Aug-18	2,290,310	9,062,500	25%
Sep-18	2,416,640	10,111,950	24%
Oct-18	2,418,240	11,002,500	22%
Nov-18	1,290,520	9,966,250	13%
Dec-18	2,228,460	10,583,200	21%
Totals	22,863,900	127,303,200	18%

2017 Usage Data			
	<u>Sewer Usage</u>	<u>Water Usage</u>	%
Jan-17	1,725,900	8,906,850	19%
Feb-17	1,743,850	7,543,350	23%
Mar-17	1,756,390	11,972,250	15%
Apr-17	1,661,240	7,763,550	21%
May-17	1,699,600	7,473,500	23%
Jun-17	1,652,610	8,338,450	20%
Jul-17	1,057,660	8,983,250	12%
Aug-17	1,824,780	8,876,550	21%
Sep-17	1,560,220	10,880,400	14%
Oct-17	1,480,420	8,351,150	18%
Nov-17	1,294,830	8,630,450	15%
Dec-17	1,736,370	9,293,700	19%
Totals	19,193,870	107,013,450	18%

2019 Sewer Cost Data			
	<u>Billed Cost</u>	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Jan-19	\$ 27,961	\$ 15,531	\$ (12,430)
Feb-19	\$ 29,201	\$ 15,410	\$ (13,791)
Mar-19	\$ 32,506	\$ 12,735	\$ (19,771)
		Refund Requested	<u><u>\$(45,992)</u></u>

**based on historical rates*

	<u>Sewer Usage</u>	<u>Water Usage</u>	%	<u>Rate</u>
Jan-19	2,175,246	12,084,700	18%	0.00714
Feb-19	2,158,236	11,990,200	18%	0.00714
Mar-19	1,783,611	9,908,950	18%	0.00714

Totals	6,206,761	34,027,526	18%
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A MEMBER OF THE KENDALL GROUP

WE OWN IT

April 16, 2019

Ventra Plastics - Evert
601 West 7th Street
Evert, MI 49631

Ref. #SHVE0416

Attn: Mr. Joel Hoffmeyer

This is to inform you that on April 16, 2019, a service call was performed to check the wastewater meter at your facility.

The metering system involved is an Eastech Vantage 2210 Ultrasonic Flow meter, S/N 14265, with FB2 transducer. The maximum range of 155.7 GPM is being measured through a .5 ft. H Flume.

Totalizer reading: 847977 X10 (as of this service call)
Flow reading: 120 GPM (this is a random reading during the service call)

Upon initial inspection, we found the support cabling on the left side of the flume to be detached. It was replaced with new cable and hardware and the flume was leveled. The cabling that was replaced in October, 2018, was still intact and working properly.

We found a large amount of solids and debris built up in the flume and in the mouth of the flume. Large chunks of cement and a lot of stones and gravel. This debris was removed and cleaned out. These deposits were likely hindering the flow pattern and could have had a significant bearing on the flow readings. Readings would have been higher than normal based on this debris.

Once cleaned, actual flow levels at the flume in the pit were found to be approximately a 1/2 inch lower than what was being recorded on the electronics and totalizer. An adjustment was made to calibrate the difference. After the adjustment, readings were found to be right on.

It is not possible to determine how many more gallons were accumulated based on this calibration difference but the difference does become more significant with higher flows.

We certify this instrument is calibrated to the manufacturer's specifications and is in good working condition as of the above date.

If you have any questions or feel we may be of further service to you in any way, please contact this office at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Steve Herweyer

3838 Clay Avenue S.W

smithinstrument.com

Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Phone: 616.245.1195
Toll Free: 800.988.1195
Fax: 616.245.0334

DATE: 3/28/2019 - 4/29/19

Acct # 7203 COMPANY: VENTRA EVART, LLC

SUPERVISOR:

DAYS	DATE	MONTH	BOD-5		SS		TOTAL-P		FLOW GPD	READING X10-GPD	PH
			MGL	LBS	MGL	LBS	MGL	LBS			
THU	28	MARCH							156,570	583440	SU
FRI	29	MARCH							180,920	599097	
SAT	30	MARCH							130,110	617189	
SUN	31	MARCH							45,090	630200	
MON	1	APRIL							158,760	634709	
TUE	2	APRIL							180,490	650585	
WED	3	APRIL							171,100	668634	
THU	4	APRIL							159,840	685744	
FRI	5	APRIL							208,110	701728	
SAT	6	APRIL							116,800	722539	
SUN	7	APRIL							74,230	734219	
MON	8	APRIL							163,060	741642	
TUE	9	APRIL							183,410	757948	
WED	10	APRIL							169,140	776289	
THU	11	APRIL							99,610	793203	
FRI	12	APRIL							146,200	803164	
SAT	13	APRIL							112,030	817784	
SUN	14	APRIL							51,080	828987	
MON	15	APRIL							126,690	834095	
TUE	16	APRIL							60,560	846764	
WED	17	APRIL							59,300	852820	
THU	18	APRIL							41,360	858750	
FRI	19	APRIL							15,980	862886	
SAT	20	APRIL							4,690	864484	
SUN	21	APRIL							13,300	864953	
MON	22	APRIL							45,040	866283	
TUE	23	APRIL							47,770	870787	
WED	24	APRIL							53,680	875564	
THU	25	APRIL							40,690	880932	
FRI	26	APRIL							54,640	885001	
SAT	27	APRIL							24,380	890465	
SUN	28	APRIL							24,920	892903	
MON	29	APRIL								895395	
AVER/TOTAL									3,119,550		
									103987		
										3,119,550	
										1,000.00	
										3,119.55	
										7.14	
										22,273.59	
										1,290.24	
										23,563.83	

Divided by
Equals
Times
Equals
Plus (6" meter)
TOTAL BILL