**EFFECTIVE APRIL 2014 NEW USER FEES FOR**

**STORMWATER AND PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION**

1. **Stormwater Utility User Fee**

Rain showers or storms produce stormwater runoff from every property in Edinburgh. While it may not seem significant, especially in smaller storms, runoff comes from parking lots, roofs, walkways, driveways and lawns. This runoff contains pollutants such as fertilizer, grease, and oil among others. This polluted runoff enters the Town’s stormwater infrastructure and eventually discharges to the Big Blue River. The Town is responsible for this stormwater discharge according to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Permit issued by the State of Indiana through the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM).

In order to relieve demands on the Town’s General Fund from property taxes, the Town of Edinburgh will implement a stormwater utility in April, 2014. Through this utility, a fee will be charged to each stormwater user every month. Unlike property tax funding which burdens the property owner regardless of property usage, each stormwater utility user will be charged based on the amount of impervious area on their property and thus how much runoff they are contributing to the system. The monies generated from the fee will be used for stormwater activities only. These include street sweeping, inlet cleaning and planned infrastructure improvements.

To determine what each utility customer’s monthly fee will be, measurements of impervious areas were made using aerial photos. Impervious areas include all hard surfaces such as roofs, driveways, patios, walkways and parking lots among others. Gravel surfaces produce runoff similar to other hard surfaces and are also included. A random sampling of residential properties were measured to determine the average impervious area. This area is called the Equivalent Runoff Unit (ERU). Each residential customer will be charged for one ERU each month. The impervious area for every commercial property was measured. This area, divided by the average residential area produces the amount of ERUs for the commercial property. For example, the ERU in Edinburgh is 3,225 square feet. If the impervious area of a commercial property measures 32,250 square feet, that property would pay 10 ERUs.

The stormwater utility fee will be $3.00 per month per ERU. For a residential customer, this equates to $36.00 per year. For the example property above, the monthly cost would be $30.00 and a yearly cost of $360.00

1. **Public Fire Protection User Fee**

Changes made by the Indiana General Assembly and state government in the past few years have made a significant impact on property taxes. As a result of these changes, revenues received by local governments from property taxes has been reduced immensely forcing local governments to seek alternative sources to fund programs and services communities depend upon for the health and safety of persons and properties. One alternative is by implementing user fees.

The Town of Edinburgh has also experienced major losses of revenue and is forced to replace these lost revenues in order to maintain these critical services. In November 2013, the Town of Edinburgh passed an ordinance to fund the costs for water based fire protection services by implementing user fees to our utility customers.

This public fire protection fee often, called a "hydrant fee", was previously funded through the annual property taxes paid by property owners through the County Treasure’s Offices. The monthly user fees listed below will provide the water utility with revenues lost from the implementation of the tax caps. The costs for public fire protection will now be paid by Utility Customers rather than being collected through property taxes as before.

Starting in April 2014, a public fire protection fee will be applied to all water utility invoices based on meter size providing service to each property. This fee does not allow for exemptions or exceptions.

METER SIZE MONTHLY USER FEE

5/8" $ 8.25 (Residential Customers)

3/4" $ 8.25 (Residential Customers)

1" $ 20.63 (Commercial Property)

1 1/2" $ 41.25 (Commercial Property)

2" $ 66.00 (Commercial Property)

3" $123.75 (Commercial Property)

4" $206.25 (Commercial Property)