

## **STATEMENT REGARDING LANSDOWNE BOROUGH SEWER BILL OVERCHARGE**

The Borough recently discovered that Borough tax bills for 2021 contained an overcharge for sewer fees that resulted from a calculation error. The overcharges range from as low as \$1.50 to as high as \$159.23. Sewer fees are determined based on flat base fee per property of \$164.11 for the first 21,174 gallons of water used and then a rate of \$7.52 per 1000 gallons of water used in excess of 21,174 gallons. Thus the \$7.52/1,000 gallons charge was applied to the initial 21,174 gallons of water in contradiction to the sewer fee ordinance requirement.

These are the steps the Borough is taking to correct this error:

- The Borough Tax Collector is in the process of printing and mailing new 2021 tax bills with corrected sewer fees. These corrected tax bills should be mailed within the next ten days.
- The Borough will refund any overpayment that it receives based on the overcharges in 2021 tax bills.

Borough taxpayers should be aware of the following:

- If your mortgage company pays your Borough taxes through a mortgage escrow, the Tax Collector will generally refund the overpayment directly to your mortgage company. Most mortgage companies have systems in place for crediting tax overpayment refunds to the proper accounts of their property owner mortgagors. You should review your mortgage statements to look for evidence of payment of your 2021 Borough tax bill and then a subsequent overpayment credit in your escrow account. The overpayment credit may be posted a month or two following payment of the 2021 tax bill by your mortgage company.
- Borough taxpayers who pay their Borough tax bill directly to the Tax Collector can either: (i) pay the full amount due on the original tax bill and the Tax Collector will then issue a refund check for the overpayment amount; or (ii) wait until the corrected tax bill is received and then pay the full amount due on the corrected bill.

The Borough apologizes for the inconveniences resulting from this error and is committed to taking all reasonable steps to correct this error and return all overpayments made by any and all Borough taxpayers.