

WRWSD Board of Trustees Saturday Meeting – 12/9/2023

President P. Levermore called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

Roll Call: Present: Armstrong, Buskey, Kost, P. Levermore, S. Levermore, Wales, Mgr. Cahall

Absent: Moore was excused.

Minutes: A motion was made by Buskey and seconded by S. Levermore to approve the 11/27/23 meeting minutes as read. A yea/nay vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

President’s Report (P. Levermore):

- We will have a brief executive session at the end of the meeting.
- The monthly meeting is December 18th at 6pm in the Lodge.
- President P. Levermore presented the following 2024 rate changes and comparison chart. These annual increases do not pertain to the lodge, restaurant and lounge proposal or the future sewer expansion. The increases are necessary to get us caught up from inflation.

| WRWSD 2024 Preliminary Rate Changes | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| The WRWSD Board members, as fellow homeowners, do not take increases lightly. In the past year we have tapped into water and sewer reserves for approximately \$225,000 to cover increases in operating expenses. Going forward, it is necessary to cover these increases in the 2024 budget. | | | | | |
| The Water Expense budget is increasing from \$454,000 to \$512,000, a 12.7% increase. | | | | | |
| The Sewer Expense budget is increasing from \$439,000 to \$521,000, an 18.7% increase. | | | | | |
| Primary factors contributing to the increases are insurance, electric, additional required sewer testing by OEPA, AquaDoc services to contain algae in the water reservoir, grinder pump core replacement, painting the water tower, and labor service contract. See specific examples on page 2. | | | | | |
| WRWSD 2024 Preliminary Rate Changes: | | | | | |
| | | 2023 Rate | Proposed 2024 | Difference | % increase |
| | monthly water* | \$ 26.50 | \$ 29.50 | \$ 3.00 | 11.3% |
| | monthly sewer* | \$ 42.25 | \$ 46.50 | \$ 4.25 | 10.1% |
| | Total | \$ 68.75 | \$ 76.00 | \$ 7.25 | 10.5% |
| * = minimum monthly charge (up to 3,000 gallons usage) | | | | | |
| | each add'l 1000 | \$ 9.00 | \$ 10.00 | \$ 1.00 | 11.1% |
| For new house construction only: | | | | | |
| | | 2023 Rate | Proposed 2024 | Difference | |
| | water tap | \$ 2,200 | \$ 3,500 | \$ 1,300 | |
| | sewer tap | \$ 2,200 | \$ 3,500 | \$ 1,300 | |
| | grinder pump | \$ 7,100 | \$ 11,000 | \$ 3,900 | |
| | Total | \$ 11,500 | \$ 18,000 | \$ 6,500 | |
| Comparative Rates: | | | | | |
| We feel our rates and our quality stand up well against neighboring facilities. | | | | | |
| A quick comparison for minimum 3,000 gallon usage is as follows: | | | | | |
| | | 2023 rate | 2024 rate | | |
| | WRWSD water | \$ 26.50 | \$ 29.50 | | |
| | BCRWA | \$ 34.50 | | | |
| | Georgetown (city/out) | \$ 29.60/59.20 | | | |
| | Mt Orab (out) | \$ 41.08 | | | |

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|--|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------|--|
| | Mt Orab village | \$ 27.00 | | | |
| | Hillsboro (city/out) | \$ 33.76/41.30 | | | |
| | WRWSD sewer | \$ 42.25 | \$ 46.50 | | |
| | Georgetown (city/out) | \$ 39.04/78.08 | | | |
| | Mt Orab (out) | NA | | | |
| | Mt Orab village | \$ 34.80 | | | |
| | Hillsboro (city/out) | \$ 48.08/62.09 | | | |
| | | | | | |
| EXAMPLES of INCREASED Expenses in the 2024 budget: | | | | | |
| Description | | Water Expense Increase | Sewer Expense Increase | Total Increase | |
| 23% increase in cost of Electricity | | \$ 6,000 | \$ 9,000 | \$ 15,000 | |
| AquaDoc Services to treat algae | | \$ 5,000 | \$ - | \$ 5,000 | |
| Liability Insurance | | \$ 6,000 | \$ 6,000 | \$ 12,000 | |
| Sewer Testing Services required by EPA | | \$ - | \$ 10,000 | \$ 10,000 | |
| Sewer Lab Supplies required by EPA | | \$ - | \$ 3,000 | \$ 3,000 | |
| Employee Labor Expense - Cost of living increase; recruiting & retention increases | | \$ 42,500 | \$ 42,500 | \$ 85,000 | |
| Total | | \$ 59,500 | \$ 70,500 | \$ 130,000 | |
| Additional Expenses in the 2024 Budget: | | | | | |
| Some parts are no longer available for our oldest grinder pumps, so we are budgeting \$100,000 to purchase grinder pump cores for replacement. Paid from Grinder Pump account. | | | | | |
| Water Tower Painting; The company we hired 3 years ago failed to complete the job; a new company bid \$65,000 higher to complete job. Paid from water reserves account. | | | | | |
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Treasurer’s Report (S. Levermore): Since 2010, we have stayed below inflation rates and it caught up with us this year. Treasurer S. Levermore added that this past year, there was a 23% increase in 2023 expenses from what we budgeted. Many factors are driving the increase: Required OEPA frequency of testing and increase in chemicals; labor insurance and retention increases; required water tower painting; replacement parts for our old grinders are no longer manufactured so we will need to begin purchasing new grinders.

Manager and Plant Superintendent Report (Paul Cahall):

- The lake valve is open and running as expected.

- The spring lagoon dredging project greatly improved our capacity and ability to drain the lagoon.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Motions and Resolutions: A motion was made by Buskey and seconded by Kost to approve the November 30th financial statement as distributed. A yea/nay vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Concerns: None

Membership Concerns: Terry Borgman asked if the labor budget was more than 50%. Treasurer S. Levermore said no but inflation is driving costs from labor, supplies and employees.

Executive Session:

- At 9:54am, a motion was made by Buskey and seconded by S. Levermore to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel compensation. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.
- At 9:55am, a motion was made by Wales and seconded by Armstrong to exit the Executive Session. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Buskey and seconded by S. Levermore to adjourn the meeting. A yea/nay vote was taken. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 9:56am.

Rhonda J. Maybriar, WRWSD Assistant Recording Secretary