



BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

ADDITIONAL MEETING DOCUMENTS

Additional or revised information or documents are often passed out to the Board at the meetings.
Whenever possible, this informational cover page will accompany those documents.

MAKE 20 COPIES OF ANY DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET, AND RETURN TO JAIME KEPHART PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

MEETING DATE	6/21/2017
AGENDA ITEM	5.A. Approval of Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Ordinance No. 02-276: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 40, Article III, Sections 40-201 and 40-202 of the Code of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Pertaining to the Sewage Service Rate Schedule and Determination of Charges
DOCUMENT TITLE(S)	Public Comments from Open Forum
FROM	Julie Williams-Hill
NEW OR REVISED? Is this a revision that is different from what was in the agenda packet or is it something entirely new?	New
RECOMMENDED ACTION If you have a new or revised recommended motion for the Board, enter it here.	<u>N/A</u>
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Please VERY BRIEFLY explain the purpose of this information or document.	Comments posted to the Open Forum as of June 19, 2017 9:15 a.m.

Board to consider proposed sewage rate increase

The Board of Public Utilities will consider a proposed sewage rate increase at the June 21st Board meeting. Do you have any feedback for the Board?

All Statements sorted chronologically

As of June 19, 2017, 9:15 AM



LOS ALAMOS

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Board to consider proposed sewage rate increase

The Board of Public Utilities will consider a proposed sewage rate increase at the June 21st Board meeting. Do you have any feedback for the Board?

As of June 19, 2017, 9:15 AM, this forum had:

Attendees: 64

All Statements: 8

Minutes of Public Comment: 24

This topic started on June 2, 2017, 12:57 PM.

Board to consider proposed sewage rate increase

The Board of Public Utilities will consider a proposed sewage rate increase at the June 21st Board meeting. Do you have any feedback for the Board?

Elena E. Giorgi inside QUEMAZON (registered)

June 12, 2017, 11:43 AM

I support the increase in rates for the following two reasons: (1) it will prompt more people to practice water conservation and raise awareness of the precious value of clean water; (2) it will help update our outdated structures; I'm really worried about the age of our pipes and how they may affect the health of our water. I think both of these things are priceless and well worth the modest increase you are proposing. Thank you!

Cristina Olds inside NORTH MESA (registered)

June 11, 2017, 2:25 PM

It would be helpful if the Introduction information explained the consequences of NOT increasing the sewage rate. No one in LA will vote to raise rates without a good reason and I don't see a justification in the description: "DPU staff is planning to replace the White Rock wastewater treatment facility in the near future. Therefore, DPU is proposing an 8-percent increase to establish a rate sufficient to sustain future debt service for a new wastewater treatment facility." What are the consequences if/when the people say they don't want to put money toward this new facility?

Reid Priedhorsky inside ASPEN - WALNUT (registered)

June 10, 2017, 11:47 AM

We have to pay for our infrastructure somehow, and the BPU has a history of underfunding itself, which leads to problems such as insufficient reserves to deal with required upgrades such as the White Rock treatment plant. Thus, I support the increase.

However: My family of three lives in both halves of a duplex, so we have to pay double for sewage. This is bogus. We should be charged the single family rate.

Lisa Brenner inside QUEMAZON (registered)

June 6, 2017, 7:09 AM

An 8% increase is BIG. What is the justification for this? The citizens of Los Alamos are a captive audience who cannot go elsewhere for this service. It's easier to raise our rates than to look at streamlining the service and reducing costs. Are there any business owners on your board?

Jill Beck inside EASTERN AREA (registered)

June 5, 2017, 2:25 PM

As a long-term renter, I cannot afford any increase to any of my utilities. I do my best to conserve as much as possible. I make little waste by reusing bags, not buying prepared foods, and by composting my food waste. If you take a close look at my utility bill, you can see that many months I am only charged the "Fixed Service Charge" for Electric, Gas, Water, Sewer and Fefuse & Recycle. In 2016 this was \$96.16 per month, \$1,153.92 per year whether I use my utilities or not. Please consider reducing the cost of utilities for those of us who

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conserve and do not create waste!

2 Supporters

Name not available (unclaimed)

June 5, 2017, 1:52 PM

I am a widow who lives alone, frugally, and I hope lightly on the planet. Every aspect of my utility use and expense is managed by me, except for sewer, which generally amounts to about one-quarter of my overall utility bill. I feel that it is unusual to spend more on sewer than on things like gas and electricity. I understand that new infrastructure is needed, and that I will have to do my share to fund it- I just hate to see this part of the bill be where that happens.

David North inside LA SENDA (registered)

June 3, 2017, 1:19 PM

Hopefully, none of us with septic systems will offer an opinion one way or the other.

Gerald Antos inside ASPEN - WALNUT (registered)

June 3, 2017, 1:04 PM

So you lost in your attempt to fleece Los Alamos Citizens through the REC bond and now you are wanting to take your full vindictive rage out on us by raising our utility rates? What more would I expect from a bunch of spendthrift politicians that dont know the meaning of fiscal responsibility? All our County Council wants is to spend more and more and take care of what we got less and less! How do we recall these political misfits anyway?

6 Supporters



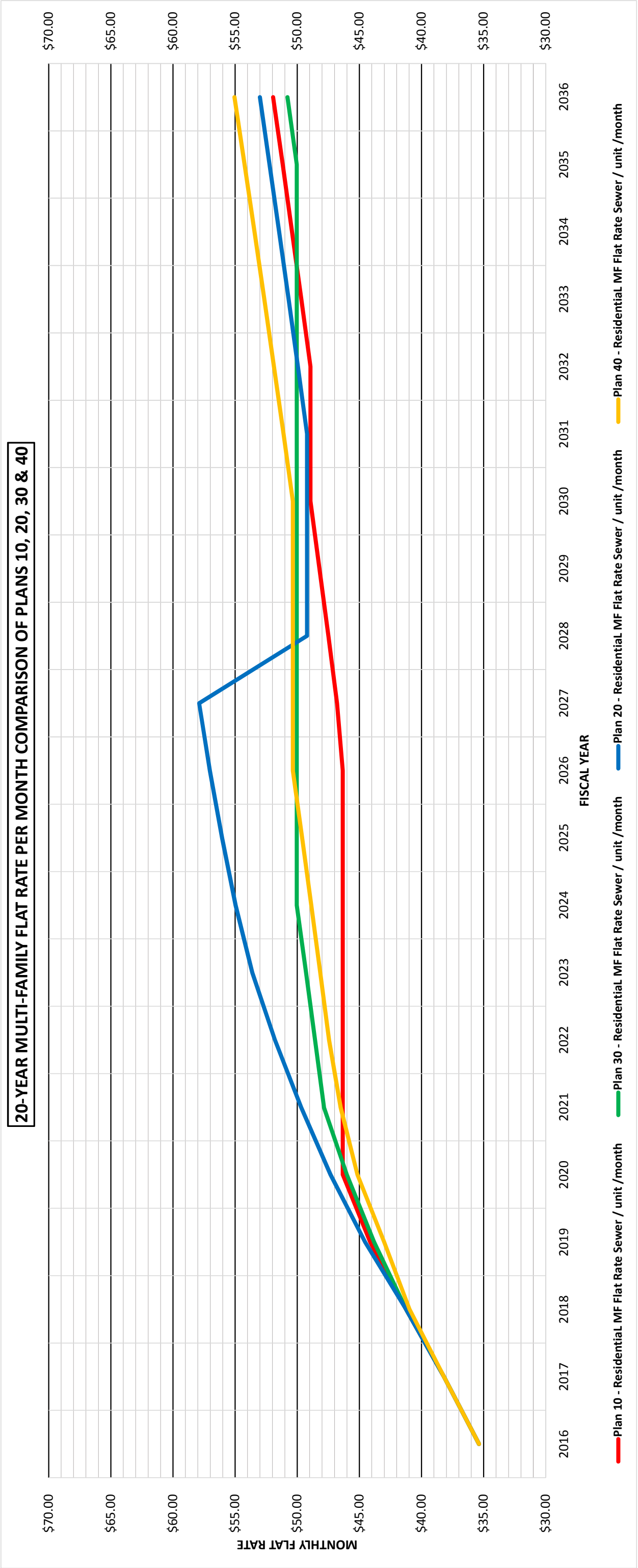
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AGENDA ITEM	5.A. Approval of Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Ordinance No. 02-276: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 40, Article III, Sections 40-201 and 40-202 of the Code of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Pertaining Sewer Rates
DOCUMENT TITLE(S)	Revised attachment B2
FROM	Bob Westervelt
NEW OR REVISED? Is this a revision that is different from what was in the agenda packet or is it something entirely new?	Revised
RECOMMENDED ACTION If you have a new or revised recommended motion for the Board, enter it here.	<u>N/A</u>
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Please VERY BRIEFLY explain the purpose of this information or document.	Updated multi family residential flat rate comparison of plans 10, 20, 30, 40





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MEETING DATE	6/21/2017
AGENDA ITEM	5.B. Approval of Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Ordinance No. 02-275: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 40, Article III, Sections 40-171 and 40-175 of the Code of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Pertaining Potable Water Rates and Bulk Delivery Rates
DOCUMENT TITLE(S)	Public Comments from Open Forum
FROM	Julie Williams-Hill
NEW OR REVISED? Is this a revision that is different from what was in the agenda packet or is it something entirely new?	New
RECOMMENDED ACTION If you have a new or revised recommended motion for the Board, enter it here.	<u>N/A</u>
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Please VERY BRIEFLY explain the purpose of this information or document.	Comments posted to the Open Forum as of June 19, 2017 9:15 a.m.

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Board to consider proposed water rate increase

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As of June 19, 2017, 9:15 AM, this forum had:

Attendees: 55

All Statements: 11

Minutes of Public Comment: 33

This topic started on June 2, 2017, 12:44 PM.

Board to consider proposed water rate increase

The Board of Public Utilities will consider a proposed water rate increase at the June 21st Board meeting. Do you have any feedback for the Board?

Elena E. Giorgi inside QUEMAZON (registered)

June 12, 2017, 3:43 PM

Hello, I support the increase in rates for the following reasons: (1) clean water is a precious commodity, especially in our dry state; higher rates will motivate people to conserve more and be more thoughtful about their water usage; (2) I worry about the age of our pipes and infrastructure; I'm more than happy to pay more if the money goes into renovating our pipelines and making sure that our water is the cleanest and healthiest possible. Thank you!

Name not available (unclaimed)

June 12, 2017, 11:39 AM

I support the increase in rates for the following two reasons: (1) it will prompt more people to practice water conservation and raise awareness of the precious value of clean water; (2) it will help update our outdated structures; I'm really worried about the age of our pipes and how they may affect the health of our water. I think both of these things are priceless and well worth the modest increase you are proposing. Thank you!

Elena E. Giorgi

Reid Priedhorsky inside ASPEN - WALNUT (registered)

June 10, 2017, 11:43 AM

We have to pay for the service somehow, and the BPU has a history of under-funding itself, which has led unsurprisingly to messes such as our current inability to pay for needed repairs to the White Rock water treatment plant.

Further, we live in a desert climate. Water is precious and its cost should reflect that.

In keeping with this, the details of the increase seem problematic. This is an opportunity to further encourage conservation. Thus, rather than a simple 8% increase across the board, leave the fixed cost and lowest tier alone, and focus the increase on the higher consumption tiers.

George Rodriguez inside WHITE ROCK (registered)

June 7, 2017, 4:32 PM

I don't support the rate increase. The whole point to conservation is to use less water. Congratulate the county residents for that achievement. Don't undermine (and even disrespect) that result by increasing rates.

Michael Randow inside WHITE ROCK (registered)

June 6, 2017, 1:33 PM

You can't chase revenue. Its been proven time and time again whether your selling water as in this case or widget's. Raising the price of anything will result in people purchasing or using less of whatever the commodity is. So you raise your price again to try and make up for the lost revenue and people buy even less.....

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Didn't work for the ABQ water board why do you think it will be any different here?

Ekaterina Davydenko inside WHITE ROCK (registered)

June 5, 2017, 3:08 PM

Increasing water rates because of the usage went down is not acceptable, nor will the increase itself be desirable in the sense of being beneficial for the long term to recover expenses cost. Personally, I would like to request county to do some more study on why there is such decrease in usage as well as finding better resolutions on how efficiently use the budget that is coming from service revenue.

With rates going up even more, usage will be forced to decrease even more as there are still plenty of families in this town who live from paycheck to paycheck. With recent drought conditions in the state, residents had to reconsider their landscapes and improve their watering systems, which are more efficient.

Please again, I urge you not to consider such steep increase on water rates at this time.

1 Supporter

Jill Beck inside EASTERN AREA (registered)

June 5, 2017, 2:30 PM

Access to clean water should be recognized as a human right. Many of us living in Los Alamos are on a fixed income, barely earning above the poverty level even though we work 40+ hours a week. As a long-term renter, I cannot afford any increase to any of my utilities. I do my best to conserve as much as possible. I make little waste by reusing bags, not buying prepared foods, and by composting my food waste. If you take a close look at my utility bill, you can see that many months I am only charged the "Fixed Service Charge" for Electric, Gas, Water, Sewer and Fefuse & Recycle. In 2016 this was \$96.16 per month, \$1,153.92 per year whether I use my utilities or not. Please consider reducing the cost of utilities for those of us who conserve and do not create waste!

1 Supporter

Patricia McCulloch inside PAJARITO ACRES (registered)

June 3, 2017, 7:19 PM

We as residents have worked hard in the past few years to conserve water, even while dealing with drought conditions. I've seen countless neighbors plant more drought tolerant natural grasses and plants. Another utilities increase is a burden on the residents that we do not need.

3 Supporters

Name not available (unclaimed)

June 3, 2017, 1:32 PM

The sewer fee is already very high. I hate to think of people who live alone and have to pay that high fee will have an increase on top of that. I wish the sewer fee was linked to the amount of water used so that those using

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more would have a higher fee and those using less water would have the chance to reduce their sewerage fee. The water bill is already very high and I hope that you will not increase it. Thank you.

David North inside LA SENDA (registered)

June 3, 2017, 1:25 PM

It's counterproductive to increase the fixed charge. The main thrust should be to encourage conservation, and the best way to do that is raise the commodity rate to cover all costs; it would be best to just eliminate the fixed rate altogether. I'm sure this has been considered -- what's not clear is why the board continues this artificial policy. All activities involved in delivering water, whether they are pumping, billing or meter reading are part of the cost. Arbitrarily deciding one factor should be billed one way and others another are kind of odd. If you go to the store do they charge you a fixed purchasing charge and then a rate for each item?

2 Supporters

Gerald Antos inside ASPEN - WALNUT (registered)

June 3, 2017, 1:06 PM

So you lost in your attempt to fleece Los Alamos Citizens through the REC bond and now you are wanting to take your full vindictive rage out on us by raising our utility rates? What more would I expect from a bunch of spendthrift politicians that dont know the meaning of fiscal responsibility? All our County Council wants is to spend more and more and take care of what we got less and less! How do we recall these political misfits anyway?

1 Supporter
