

**Citizen Comments/Questions
Water & Sewer Utility Rate Public Meetings**

Tuesday, October 14, 2008 - SDSM&T

1. Producing potable water in treatment plants is very expensive and it is cheaper to do it through wells. I don't believe I've seen any other contaminants other than nitrate.
2. I think it's the obligation and mission of Rapid City to produce water and sewer to customers at the least possible expense to them. I believe the route you are going is the wrong way to go. It's producing water very expensively for city and passing all that burden on to the customers through rates. How many years for the rate increase?
3. Will that then pay back the \$135 million in expenses?
4. Why does the plant only operate two weeks out the year?
5. Why not build a dam in the valley and save that water?
6. Who else do we provide water to?
7. Are everyone's rates the same?
8. The operation and maintenance costs will be higher if you are trying to operate water treatment plant then if you use wells. I don't think the cost would be so much greater through water treatment plant than wells. Should be pointed out to paying customers.
9. I think current rates are high. For people on low income and certain businesses, this rate increase will cause inflation.
10. What funding sources have been searched out rather than levying rate increase?
11. How much 2012 money will go to this?
12. Is there any 2012 money that can be reallocated?
13. What about the \$2.5 million set aside for parking? It won't be used tomorrow. Can it be reallocated?
14. This is a project the City can't afford.

15. Seems like a poor time to talk about increases, due to economy.
 16. Why not drop a well over Jackson Springs? Why do you want to spend on a water treatment plant when you can do it by well?
 17. If septic systems are bad, why isn't there a law?
 18. Was there discussion on additional sales tax?
 19. Does the new rate structure include installation of water lines?
 20. I know you have to have it, but what about people with fixed incomes and how will they pay the costs? You have to be prudent to pay this other than sending them a bill.
 21. You should be looking at other power sources such as wind. In today's paper, Box Elder is building houses using wind generators.
 22. I'm bothered by water rationing. Why do we never seem to shut down car washes?
 23. Where is the water coming from?
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West Middle School - October 15, 2008

1. Explain why we have a relationship with EAFB. Is their contract re-negotiated?
2. What is used to qualify significant industrial user and other categorical users?
3. Are your revenue bonds based solely on revenue from sale of water and where does the extra money come from if not enough is collected?
4. Will there be a rate raise for everyone?
5. For irrigation, is multi-family charged differently?
6. What comprises commercial irrigation?
7. What is the environmental charge on the displayed bill?
8. Does any money from the City general fund go to support water and sewer?

9. Why do wholesalers only pay 85%, and a resident pays 100%?
10. For those outside of limits, are they charged a penalty? Does that apply to Box Elder?
11. Is there a development fee on every tap fee?
12. I think it is the development that is causing problem. They should be paying a penalty on the tap fee.
13. Why do we give out TIFs?
14. We discourage people by charging impact fees.
15. Are you anticipating any federal mandates or legislation that will affect RC water and sewer facilities?
16. Why are you asking the federal government for grant money?
17. Why not drill more wells?
18. Discuss combining the two water sources and allowing recharging of the wells.
19. Why build two plants? Why not just let Jackson Springs come to Mt. View and build it bigger?
20. What is program from here on out?
21. Should other funding be assisting rate payers?
22. Do your rate projections include inflation?
23. Why are capital costs inflated when they are fixed costs?
24. Is a meter charge a capacity charge?
25. What about the money for the Rushmont Building?

Other Questions/Comments Received

1. Letter from Family Thrift Center Laundromat indicating that raising water rates would hurt their business considerably.
2. Email from citizen asking why 2012 money cannot be used for this water need. Also questioning why we would raise rates on poor fixed income elderly, disabled and poor families.