

**Highland Pines Domestic Water Improvement District (HPDWID)
July 2021 Newsletter**

1: 2021-2022 Budget, Rates and Fees

The FY 2021/2022 Rates and Fees and Budget together with Resolutions 2021-9 and 2021-10 were approved by the HPDWID Board of Directors on 6/10/2021. These documents are available for review at www.hpdwid.com under 1) Bill Pay -> Rates and Fees and 2) About -> Annual Budget. The base water fee was increased from \$50 to \$60 per month and water use rates were increased 10% which includes the City of Prescott's 2022 rate increase. A \$20 monthly vacant lot (a property without a home and/or without a meter) base fee was also approved. The rationale for the rate increases are as follows:

- A. The current estimate for the main transmission line/Madizell project is now over two years old. It is going to cost the district an additional \$237,000 of its own reserve dollars to complete the project. Once the project is completed, the Board hopes to lower the ad valorem tax.
- B. The Board is considering repair (which has been done once) or replacement of the lower water tank on Madizell since it has had a small leak for over a year. Fann Environmental has estimated the cost of material to replace it (without installation) to be \$75,000 to \$125,000 depending on the size of water tank purchased. The Board of Directors would like to remediate the lower water tank leak as soon as adequate reserve funds are available.
- C. The Board approved the purchase of a \$43,500 Graphical Information Mapping System from Sunrise Engineering on 6/24/2021. This will allow HPDWID the development of a database of its assets and data (i.e., pipe location/type/date, valves, meters, fire hydrants, tanks) and give the Board the ability to update the existing assets while maintaining ongoing changes. It will improve the Board's access to data, maps and geographical information and make management of assets more efficient and effective.

#2: Construction Project Assistance from U.S. Representative Paul Gosar

On February 6, 2021, Board Chair Carr sent a letter to U.S. Representative Paul Gosar requesting his help to assist the Prescott National Forest (PNF) to finalize approval allowing HPDWID to replace the failing water main serving the Highland Pines subdivision and the Arizona Cactus Pine Girl Scout Camp.

Planning the HPDWID main water line replacement began in November of 2017 and after 29 months and monthly meetings between HPDWID and PNF between May and December of 2020, a Decision Memo Approval from the PNF had not been received. Representative Gosar sent an inquiry letter to the Southwestern Region of the USDA Forest Service on 2/9/2021. As a result, the PNF District Ranger Dale Deiter signed the Decision Memo on 2/9/2021 approving the replacement of the HPDWID main water transmission line through the PNF.

3: Main Transmission & Madizell Road Waterline Replacement Project Update

Description:

The replacement and upgrade of a 2.1-mile main transmission line from Spence Springs Road into the Highland Pines subdivision; as well as replacement of sections of a water line along Madizell Road.

It will include replacing the 6-inch watermain through the Forest Service easement with 6-inch Ductile Iron Pipe and replacing the 6-inch waterline within Madizell Road with 6-inch C900 PVC Pipe along with all needed valves and air release valves throughout the system. The current water line will remain operational during construction.

WIFA Loan

The WIFA loan agreement for HPDWID in the amount of \$2,568,738 with \$716,000 in forgivable principal officially closed on 4/23/2021. The term of the loan is 20 years at 1.739%. Fixed monthly payments will be \$11,209.91/month for the first 5 years.

Contractor Selection and Timeline:

Sunrise Engineering will be the Project Manager. On July 12, 2021, the HPDWID Board will discuss selecting the Project Contractor. It is anticipated that construction will begin in early fall of 2021 and commence in the spring of 2022. The project may be impacted by Prescott National Forest closures.

4: Contact Information Request

If you would like to be contacted about water outages and other important HPDWID information, please provide the following information to Natalie Galgano-Pinkley by email at ngalgano@municipalaccounts.com or by mail at 240 S. Montezuma, Suite 202, Prescott, AZ, 86303 no later than 8/31/2021. Thank you.

- Name
- Service Address
- Mailing Address
- Phone (cellular if available; landline if not)
- Email Address

5: HPDWID Website

Remember to check for upcoming HPDWID board meeting notices, agendas, and meeting minutes on our website at www.hpdwid.com. In addition to the HPDWID annual budget and rates and fees, the customer portal provides access to online billing and offers enhanced bill paying capabilities.

Due to Covid-19, the HPDWID board meetings have been held telephonically. You are encouraged to attend whenever possible. Currently scheduled meetings (subject to change) for 2021 are on 8/12/2021 and 11/12/2021.

Board meeting notices are posted at least 24 hours before meetings in two places: www.hpdwid.com and on the bulletin board at the fire station (corner of Skyline Dr and Happy Valley Rd).

#6: Remembering Dave Barnard

A long-term resident of Highland Pines who volunteered many years on the HPDWID Board of Directors, Dave Barnard passed away in May. He will be missed. We remember his service and dedication to this water board with thoughts and prayers to Helen and his entire family.

#7: Arizona Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Dollars for HPDWID Water Infrastructure Projects

The HPDWID Chair and Vice-chair have plans to meet with Harry Oberg, Supervisor, representing Yavapai County District One, on 7/14/2021 to discuss the application process to secure funding from the Arizona Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). In a meeting Tuesday, 6/8/2021, the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors agreed the focus for using \$22.8M funds should be for infrastructure improvements including water projects.

#8: Water as a Precious Resource

Water is a precious resource. We cannot live without it. Water is one of the essential things that lets life thrive on this planet. Thus, the significance of water can be compared to the significance of air. All living organisms, animals or plants, everyone is entirely dependent on water. Though water is a necessity to all living being on earth, having enough water and healthy drinkable water is a rare commodity across the globe. The planet consists of 70% water, among which 97.5% of water is found in the oceans and is salty, and only 2.5% is potable freshwater.

We would like to thank Bryan Crossley, HPDWID Treasurer and Board Member who resigned on May 19, 2021, for his service and welcome Angelo Angeleri who was appointed by the Board of Directors on 6/24/2021 to fulfill Bryan's remaining term.

Your five-member volunteer board, with the support of Municipal Accounts and Consulting LP, Fann Environmental LLC, Sunrise Engineering, and the law firm of BPCWS, PLLC are working hard for you on all matters related to HPDWID.

Celia Carr, Chair (2022)
Sandy McClintock, Vice Chair and District Clerk (2022)
Angelo Angeleri, Board Member (2024)
Dave Cook, Board Member (2024)
Pat Ferguson, Board Member (2024)

"Unity is strength. When there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."