

- You will recall that we received new meter reading equipment last fall that was not properly set up. As a result, we had to issue invoices for Q1 & Q2 of this year based on normal average use by applying the prior flat rate. Those invoices indicated that adjustments would be made when we were able to get the equipment working. The last prior actual reading was taken 9/8/23.
- An actual read of all properties was again taken on 7/8/24. The total water used by the district during the 9-month period of September 2023 thru July 2024 was 770,883 gallons.
- All water use is billed in arrears. The billing months for the current year are January, April, July, and October. The water use for the January invoice was October through December 2023. As such, while some of the water charged in July was used during 2023, all usage of the readings from September 2023 through July 2024 is of the current billing year, January through December 2024.
- The 2024 annual water system operating budget approved in March is \$166,010. July is the third quarter billing so with this billing we need to have collected 75% of the annual amount, or \$124,507.50. This implies a cost per gallon of 16 cents/gallon as rounded ($\$124,507.50/770,883$).
- It is no longer economically sufficient to bill minimal rates based on use of \$234 or \$334 per month with added billing for use over 3000 gallons as in the past. Rather, to ensure that everyone is equitably treated we have calculated each home's use for 2024 between the September and July readings and billed at 16 cents per gallon. In this way, each household is invoiced for their proportionate use of the system.
- The percentage use of each home as a proportion of total system use for the nine-month billing period of September 2023 through July 2024 was compared to the average use of the prior three billing cycles. Those three prior cycles were for the billing periods ending in March, June, and September 2023. The proportion of total system use by each household compared between those two nine-month periods was significantly the same for all.
- We have refunded the amounts collected from each paying customer for Q1 and Q2 using the former method of calculation and rebilled the entire nine-months ending in July 2024 based on actual proportionate use less the appropriate credits. No home is being double billed for any 2024 water use. Each is being billed a per gallon rate of 16 cents since the September reading.
- On top of the usage charges the current portions of our two loans were divided equally among the fifty-five present water system users adding \$255 to each invoice.
- We have welcomed requests for payment plans but all invoices are due 30-days from the date of issue, which is August 25th, unless provisions are made. A \$25 late charge per month will be applied. Any bills not paid in full in 90 days will be sent to an agency for collection.
- The fourth quarter meter reads are expected to occur the first week of October with invoices being sent shortly thereafter. That billing calculation will divide the remaining quarter of the year's budget by the total gallons used by the entire system to calculate a then-current rate per gallon. Each household will be invoiced for their actual use in the same equitable manner used this invoice period.
- We will also add the loan portions to the fourth quarter invoices for the remainder of the annual loan payments. The amount will be higher than this quarter's \$255 per home as the loan amounts are divided by the number of users on the system on the date of invoice.