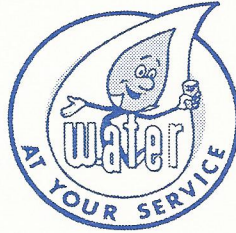


Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners

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Media Advisory

The Saraland Water and Sewer Board wants to respond to the recent customer and social media comments and inquires regarding the recent water and sewer rate increases.

The rates for sewer and water were increased and the new rates are reflected on the customer bills that were issued earlier this month. The sewer rate was increased by 20% and the water rate was increased by 10%. These increases were implemented to provide the necessary funding for the safe, efficient and reliable services of water distribution and sewage collection in the City of Saraland.

In 2015 the Saraland Water and Sewer Board assumed the responsibility of operating the City's sewer system. The fiscal responsibilities of running the sewer system came with the acquisition. In addition to the financial responsibilities the Board assumed more than a dozen employees, all of the equipment and the day-to-day operations of the sewer system. In order to meet the financial obligations to operate the sewer system the Board implemented necessary rate adjustments. The expenses for the delivery of water to the customers has also increased calling for a raise of water rates. These changes were necessary and were only done after careful consideration of what was needed and what is in the best interest of the community.

Inquires have been made regarding the funding for the building located next door to the administrative offices of the Saraland Water and Sewer Board. The new water and sewer rates were not implemented to finance the purchase of this building nor the current renovations that are being completed. The building was purchased in 2010 and there is no debt or mortgage on it. It is currently being renovated with funds that were previously earmarked by the Board. The rate increases are not related to the acquisition of the building or the current renovations. The building will be used to assist in centralizing some of the utility's operations and will provide additional needed working space.

No one likes to have to raise rates and the Saraland Water and Sewer Board only makes adjustments as needed to provide quality water and sewer services to the citizens it serves. Additionally, the citizens of Saraland are paying reasonable rates for quality services in comparison to citizens in neighboring areas.