

Entranosa Water News

December 31, 2008

Weather. It has been fairly ‘normal’ – and cold. We’ve taken about a dozen calls of ‘no water’ the past 10 days (or so), all due to frozen service lines near the home or in the garage. While not a water conservation measure, one way to help keep lines from freezing at night (other than protecting them) is to slightly open a faucet or two and create a regular drip (catch it in a pan and water plants with it, or give it to the animals the next day) – this will normally create enough flow to reduce the opportunity for stagnate water to freeze.

Hardness. We are fully in the winter mode of operations now and hardness has dropped to an average of 11 grains, based on our tests this past week, around the system. The tests varied from 10 grains to 14 grains of hardness (a grain is approximately 17.1 milligrams per liter). We should range between 10 and 15 grains throughout the system until March.

December Consumption. Household demand remained relatively low this month, although our ‘meter reading month was 35 days. The average household meter used 5,450 gallons this month or 155 gallons per dwelling.

Board Meeting. The Board of Directors will hold its monthly meeting on either the 3rd or 4th Thursday in January, depending on weather and schedules. The December 18th .was cancelled. Should you wish to attend, please call to verify the date and so we can make proper arrangements.

Rates. We announced last month that the Board had completed their rate analysis, with the help of an outside consultant. We’ve repeated our blurb from last month, on the reverse side of this newsletter, about the affect on rates, but in summary – our rates will change in January and we’ll implement a 5% rate increase on water, increase our monthly standby and admin fee by \$1, the monthly septic management fee will increase \$0.60/month for those on a three-year plan, and our fee for late payments will increase to \$10. The bill you receive at the end of January will reflect the new rates.

Holiday Closing. We will be closed on New Years Day, and open on January 2nd. If you have a water emergency, you may contact our duty man at 604-5935 or through the office (281-8700) emergency message system. We hope you have a joyous, and safe, holiday.

May the New Year Bring you Joy.

From all of us at Entranosa

Call Before You Dig – dial 811

Entranosa Rates

(implemented with billing at the end of January)

No one likes a rate increase – not even your neighbors that serve on the Entranosa Board of Directors ... but such things are ‘facts of life’. This is the 4th increase to our operational rates enacted by the Entranosa Board since 1990, and it reflects a cumulative increase of 26% over that time. The pressures of the cost of power, fuel, labor, training, and monitoring requirements on our expenses are irresistible. We’ve successfully used technology and work practices to make ourselves more efficient, which helped defer some rate hikes in the past – but we’ve done about as much as we can there, for now.

In the past, we’ve conducted our own rate studies in-house ... this time we hired a consultant and provided him with everything he requested – policies, costs, operational history, projections, etc. His written report to the Board validated that we’d done a good job in setting rates, and in controlling costs and taking steps to minimize the need for rate increases, and he provided some reasonable recommendations.

After much deliberation, the Board accepted some of those recommendations completely, and modified (reduced) others. The results are: The ‘water’ portion of your bill will increase 5%, and for the first time in 19 years we’re going to increase our monthly administrative and standby fee from \$15 to \$16; due to the increased cost of septic pumping and disposal, we’ll increase our septic management program fee 12% - for those on a three year cycle, your bill will increase from \$5/month to \$5.60/month. Based upon the recommendation of the consultant, and the rationale he provided, the Board decided to increase the late payment fee from \$5 to \$10.

The cost of water, up to 9,000 gallons per month will go from \$3.60/thousand to \$3.78/thousand; the cost of water between 10,000 gallons and 20,000 gallons will go from \$4.90 to \$5.15 per thousand gallons per month, and the cost of water from 21,000 gallons and up will go from \$6.20/thousand to \$6.50/thousand. The impact of those rates is reflected in this table.

Gallons Per Month	Old Rate	New Rate	Increase
No Usage	\$15.00	\$16.00	\$1.00
6,000	\$36.60	\$38.68	\$2.08
10,000	\$52.30	\$55.17	\$2.83
15,000	\$76.80	\$80.92	\$4.10
21,000	\$107.50	\$113.17	\$5.67
30,000	\$163.30	\$171.67	\$8.37