



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
August 20, 2024
6:00 PM

Leeper Center, 3800 Wilson Avenue, Wellington, CO

Special Meeting Agenda

Individuals wishing to make public comments must attend the meeting in person or may submit comments by sending an email to muhse@wellingtoncolorado.gov. The email must be received by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The comments will be provided to the Trustees and added as an addendum to the packet. Emailed comments will not be read during the meeting.

The Zoom information below is for online viewing and listening only.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84871162393?pwd=UkVaaDE4RmhJaERnallEK1hvNHJ5Zz09>

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Webinar ID: 848 7116 2393

A. CALL TO ORDER

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Amendments to Agenda
4. Conflict of Interest

B. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

1. Public Comment

C. ACTION ITEMS

1. Hardship Utility Grant Increase

- Patti Garcia, Town Administrator

D. ADJOURN

The Town of Wellington will make reasonable accommodations for access to Town services, programs, and activities and special communication arrangements. Individuals needing special accommodation may request assistance by contacting at Town Hall or at 970-568-3380 ext. 110 at least 24 hours in advance.



Board of Trustees Meeting

Date: August 20, 2024
Subject: Hardship Utility Grant Increase

- Patti Garcia, Town Administrator

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mayor Chaussee has called a special meeting to consider an increase in the Hardship Utility Grant (HUG) distribution to \$500 per approved application through December 31, 2024; funds to be utilized will be the current HUG grant fund and the Board of Trustees Discretionary Fund. Accounts that have received a HUG grant this year will be eligible to apply to bring their request up to \$500. For example, if someone had received the full \$300 earlier this year, they could apply for an additional \$200 through the end of the year.

The Board Discretionary Fund has a 2024 budget of \$30,000; expenditures include a \$10,000 grant to the Community Services Center and \$500 for food/refreshments for the Voices of Strength BBQ. The available balance is \$19,500.

The Hardship Utility Grant fund has a 2024 budget of \$12,000; expenditures to date are \$2,570.02 for 10 HUG grant distributions. The available balance is \$9,129.98.

If all of the available funds are depleted before the end of 2024, staff would report to the Board of Trustees on options to continue to support the residents of Wellington.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

CONNECTION WITH ADOPTED MASTER PLANS

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Use of budgeted funds.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None

Town of Wellington Board of Trustees,

My intent in submitting a comment here is to highlight an issue that I believe is important to every resident of the TOW. I am also interested in zeroing in on the problem(s) and potential solutions.

While I do not question the consumption challenge presented by the BOT last week, and believe there are steps we can all take in this area, based on what I am seeing in the current rate structure (<https://www.townofwellington.com/155/Water-Sewer>), I believe the consumption issue is secondary to the more pressing issue of cost. ***There appears to be a disproportionate burden on the cost of water being carried by the single family residences in the TOW compared to other customer types, including Multi-Family, Commercial, and Irrigation.***

To this end, I appreciate the information from Town Administrator, Patti Garcia in recent days and the engagement from Trustee Tietz and welcome others who have data or insight that will help rationalize and/or resolve the current situation. I also appreciate receiving answers to the questions I submitted last week (08/13) to the BOT as this will help confirm and/or clarify what I understand up to this point.

Based on my understanding of the current situation, it looks like single family residences in the TOW are bearing a disproportionate burden on the cost of water relative to the other customer types (Multi-family, Commercial, and Irrigation) in the TOW.

Based on data from the TOW Water & Sewer page (<https://www.townofwellington.com/155/Water-Sewer>), it appears the difference is in the following areas:

1. Base Rate
2. Storm Water Fee
3. Rate Structure

I will post the detail on each of these separately to focus the collective minds and energy on the single issue, in the hope that we can come to a mutually-beneficial solution.

What you will find, is when you remove the noise -- potable/non-potable irrigation, volume of consumption, breaks, leaks, meters, or emotion -- and just look at each item in isolation, a composite picture emerges that helps reveal the core problem of cost and positions us to discover potential solutions.

If I am missing something in my data and/or conclusions, I am confident this will be pointed out to me. And I thank you in advance.

1. Why do Single Family (SF) residences in the TOW bear a disproportionate burden on the cost of water relative to the other customer types?

Below is the comparison of the Base Rate (0.75 inch tap) for each type of customer in the TOW:

	Base Rate	Diff from SF
SF	\$52.20	-
MF	\$32.50	-38%
CO	\$25.27	-52%
IRR	\$25.27	-52%

SF customers pay 38% more than MF customers and 52% more than commercial and irrigation customers for the same service bas on a 0.75 inch tap.

SOURCE: <https://www.townofwellington.com/155/Water-Sewer>

It's not clear how 0.75 inch tap is different in a SF, MF, CO, or IRR customer and why SF customers would need to pay more than all other customer types in the TOW.

If someone else knows why it would be different, or what I am missing, please share.

RECOMMENDATION: Make all Base Rates (0.75 Inch tap) the same for all customer types in the TOW.

2. Why is there a difference in the Storm Water fee for SF and MF residential customers (\$11.33) and Commercial customers (\$9.25)?

SF and MF customers are paying 22% more than commercial customers for the same service.

SOURCE: <https://www.townofwellington.com/155/Water-Sewer>

It's not clear what is different about storm water coming from a SF or MF residence from storm water coming from CO customer or why SF or MF customers would need to pay more than CO customer types in the TOW.

If someone else knows why it would be different, or what I am missing, please share.

RECOMMENDATION: Make the Storm Water fees the same for all customer types in the TOW.

For this final question, I want to remove the noise -- potable/non-potable irrigation, volume of consumption, breaks, leaks, meters, or emotion -- and just look at ONE gallon of water.

This is best framed when you consider what happens to anyone who shows up at the grocery store or gas station in the TOW (or anywhere) to purchase ONE gallon of milk or ONE gallon gas.

It does not matter if that customer is a home owner, or renter, lives in an apartment or condo, or owns and operates a business. They each pay the same for ONE gallon of milk (\$3.29) or ONE gallon gas (\$3.139).

With that framing:

3. *Why do Single Family (SF) residences in the TOW bear a disproportionate burden on the cost of ONE gallon of water relative to the other customer types?*

When water use is reduced to ONE gallon for all customer types, based on the current tier rates (<https://www.townofwellington.com/155/Water-Sewer>), SF customers are paying 38% more than MF and 28% more than commercial customers for the same service.

SOURCE: <https://www.townofwellington.com/155/Water-Sewer>

It's not clear what is different about the ONE gallon of water a SF residence uses from the same ONE gallon of water used by MF, CO, or IRR customers or why SF customers would need to pay 38% more than MF and 28% more than commercial customers for the same ONE gallon of water.

If someone else knows why it would be different, or what I am missing, please share.

RECOMMENDATION: Simplify the tier structure by either going to one rate or if there is some reason why a tier structure is needed, when we all do the math, we can see there is equality in what we are paying for our water regardless of class -- SF, MF, CO, or IRR, or consumption.

Thank you for your serious consideration of these points.

Stephen B. Carman, PhD, MA
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