



A Letter From Your Utilities Commission
June 2016
Bandon, Oregon

As we discussed in our May letter, Bandon's utilities require maintenance and occasional upgrades.

Currently, our Water Treatment Plant requires:



Filter repairs and media replacement at a cost of \$120,000. The filter walls have not been resurfaced and the filter media have not been replaced for 16 years



A seismic valve on the 2 million gallon water storage tank at a cost of \$240,000. In the event of a major earthquake, this valve automatically would initiate a procedure that would help to avoid the loss of 2 million gallons of treated water.



Spare pumps for the Water Treatment Plant at a cost of \$15,000. Spare pumps would allow the pumping procedures at the Water Treatment Plant to continue when the older less reliable pumps break down and are unusable for a time or unfixable at all.



Chlorine system replacement at a cost of \$20,000. Using this system, the Water Treatment Plant experts create chlorine from rock salt. The existing system is very old and needs to be modernized to keep treating our drinking water safely.



In combination with other funds, the funds necessary to undertake these projects and start building reserves can be obtained by raising our base water rates by \$10.00 per month for residential customers and \$20.00 a month for commercial and industrial customers. There is still no additional charge for the first 2,000 gallons of water used.

You may have noticed that the 5 points above are repeated from our May letter. That is because some people have had questions. Here are three of those questions and the answers to them:



Q. Is this proposed ballot measure a way for the City Council to acquire rate-setting authority? The voters turned down a ballot initiative in 2014 and said we would not grant rate-setting authority. We said we want to know exactly what needs to be done and how much it will cost.

A. We are telling the people of Bandon exactly what we need to do to maintain the Water Treatment Plant and how much this will cost; no rate-setting authority has been proposed. We have come forward with a proposal that details specific areas of maintenance and costs.



Q. Is the City building an amphitheater? If so, why can't those funds be used to sustain the Water Treatment Plant?

A. No, the City is not building an amphitheater. City volunteers are re-grading the grass seating area in front of the existing stage. Funds for some seeds and supplies will be expended to upgrade the area in the Park for this project. The expense is so minimal it would not cover any required maintenance at the Water Treatment Plant.



Q. Isn't this increase an awful lot of money?

A. The money required for the maintenance of the Water Treatment Plant amounts to about .30 cents a day for a residential customer. This is the cost of 2 lattes a month at the Human Bean or one egg a day.



INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT #1: THE FILTER

Filtration is a critical process at the Water Treatment Plant. As the raw water moves through the filtering process, it passes through the media. Like a concrete sidewalk, the outer surface of the filters erodes and an aggregate-like material is exposed. This worn surface allows algae to grow. The more worn the surface is, the more algae grows and the less efficient the water treatment process becomes. This is the highest priority maintenance item at the Water Treatment Plant.

We are having our next regular meeting of the Utilities Commission at 7:00 PM on June 8, 2016 in the Council Chambers of City Hall so that those of you who cannot attend meetings at 3:00 PM can attend. We look forward to answering any questions you may have.