

BERKELEY COUNTY COUNCIL
NOTICE OF REQUEST TO APPROVE PROPOSED WATER RATE INCREASE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to the requirements of W. VA. CODE § 16-13A-9 that the Berkeley County Public Service District, dba the Berkeley County Public Service Water District (the “District”) has proposed an increase in water rates and charges to the Berkeley County Council (the “Council”) which shall be subject to a Public Hearing beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 1, 2017, followed by Council discussion and action scheduled for 11:45 a.m., on Thursday, June 8, 2017. Both the public hearing and discussion will be held at 400 West Stephen Street, Suite 205, Martinsburg, W.Va. The District contends that the water rate and charge increase is necessary because of increased operating and maintenance expenses. The District’s current water rates and charges are as follows:

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- I. Rules and Regulations for the Government of Water Utilities, adopted by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, and now in effect, and all amendments thereto and modifications thereof hereafter made by said Commission.

APPLICABILITY

Applicable within the entire territory served

AVAILABILITY

Available for general domestic, commercial and industrial water service

RATES (Customers with metered water supply)

First	2,000 gallons used per month	\$10.56 per 1,000 gallons
Next	88,000 gallons used per month	\$6.85 per 1,000 gallons
All Over	90,000 gallons used per month	\$4.84 per 1,000 gallons

MINIMUM CHARGE

No bill will be rendered for less than the following per month based on meter size:

5/8 inch meter	\$21.12 per month
1 inch meter	\$52.80 per month
1-1/2 inch meter	\$105.60 per month
2 inch meter	\$168.96 per month
3 inch meter	\$316.80 per month
4 inch meter	\$528.00 per month
6 inch meter	\$1,056.00 per month
8 inch meter	\$1,689.60 per month

PRIVATE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE

Where connection, hydrants, sprinklers, etc on private property are maintained by consumer.

Fire Hydrants, \$128.62 per hydrant per year, payable annually

Private Fire Protection Sprinkler systems shall pay \$128.62 per year, plus \$0.43 per sprinkler head, payable annually.

Hose Connections, for fire use only \$74.38 per year, payable annually Simplex or Duplex

Secured Government Installments \$30.21 per inch (fire line nominal diameter- payable monthly

DELAYED PAYMENT PENALTY

The above schedule is net. On all accounts not paid in full when due, ten percent (10%) will be added to the net current amount unpaid. This delayed payment penalty is not interest and is to be collected only once for each bill where it is appropriate.

RECONNECTION

\$20.00

To be charged whenever the supply of water is turned off for violation of rules, nonpayment of bills or fraudulent use of water.

TAP FEE

The following charge is to be made whenever the utility installs a new tap to serve an applicant.

A tap fee of \$450.00 will be charged to all customers who apply for service outside of a certificate proceeding before the Commission for each new tap to the system.

LEAK ADJUSTMENT

\$0.76 per 1,000 gallons is to be used when the bill reflects unusual consumption which can be attributed to eligible leakage on customer's side of the meter. This rate shall be applied to all such consumption above customer's historical average usage.

SPECIAL WATER SERVICES

1. Where water is desired for only a short period of time, and not continuously throughout the year, such as for vacation homes or cottages, building purposes, street paving, cleaning property, filling tanks or other uses of this kind, an application shall be made as set forth in Water Rule 4.1.6., and payment made in accordance with the applicable schedule of rates and charges, in which case a suitable deposit shall be made.
2. When making application for special water service, the applicant shall pay the District the (a) applicable security deposit; and (b) service reconnecting charge.

3. The applicant shall forfeit the total security deposit if the District can show the user tampered with any District property.
4. Each reconnecting of a special water service shall require a new application.

RETURNED CHECK CHARGE

A service charge equal to the actual bank fee assessed to the District, not to exceed \$25.00, will be imposed upon any customer whose check for payment of charge is returned by his or her bank due to insufficient funds.

SECURITY DEPOSIT

Not to exceed two-twelfths (2/12) if the average annual usage of the applicant’s specific customer class or fifty dollars, whichever is greater. This fee may be changed by applicable statutory provisions.

The District proposes making the following changes to its rates, fees and charges:

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- I. Rules and Regulations for the Government of Water Utilities, adopted by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, and now in effect, and all amendments thereto and modifications thereof hereafter made by said Commission.

APPLICABILITY

Applicable within the entire territory served

AVAILABILITY

Available for general domestic, commercial and industrial water service

RATES (Customers with metered water supply)

First	2,000 gallons used per month	\$11.45 per 1,000 gallons
Next	88,000 gallons used per month	\$7.42 per 1,000 gallons
All Over	90,000 gallons used per month	\$5.24 per 1,000 gallons

MINIMUM CHARGE

No bill will be rendered for less than the following per month based on meter size:

5/8 inch meter	\$22.90 per month
1 inch meter	\$57.24 per month
1-1/2 inch meter	\$114.47 per month
2 inch meter	\$183.15 per month
3 inch meter	\$343.41 per month
4 inch meter	\$572.35 per month
6 inch meter	\$1,144.70 per month
8 inch meter	\$1,831.50 per month

PRIVATE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE

Where connection, hydrants, sprinklers, etc on private property are maintained by consumer.

Fire Hydrants, \$128.62 per hydrant per year, payable annually

Private Fire Protection Sprinkler systems shall pay \$128.62 per year, plus \$0.43 per sprinkler head, payable annually.

Hose Connections, for fire use only \$74.38 per year, payable annually Simplex or Duplex

Secured Government Installments \$30.21 per inch (fire line nominal diameter- payable monthly

DELAYED PAYMENT PENALTY

The above schedule is net. On all accounts not paid in full when due, ten percent (10%) will be added to the net current amount unpaid. This delayed payment penalty is not interest and is to be collected only once for each bill where it is appropriate.

RECONNECTION

\$20.00

To be charged whenever the supply of water is turned off for violation of rules, nonpayment of bills or fraudulent use of water.

TAP FEE

The following charge is to be made whenever the utility installs a new tap to serve an applicant.

A tap fee of \$450.00 will be charged to all customers who apply for service outside of a certificate proceeding before the Commission for each new tap to the system.

LEAK ADJUSTMENT

\$0.76 per 1,000 gallons is to be used when the bill reflects unusual consumption which can be attributed to eligible leakage on customer's side of the meter. This rate shall be applied to all such consumption above customer's historical average usage.

SPECIAL WATER SERVICES

1. Where water is desired for only a short period of time, and not continuously throughout the year, such as for vacation homes or cottages, building purposes, street paving, cleaning property, filling tanks or other uses of this kind, an application shall be made as set forth in Water Rule 4.1.6., and payment made in accordance with the applicable schedule of rates and charges, in which case a suitable deposit shall be made.
2. When making application for special water service, the applicant shall pay the District the (a) applicable security deposit; and (b) service reconnecting charge.

3. The applicant shall forfeit the total security deposit if the District can show the user tampered with any District property.
4. Each reconnecting of a special water service shall require a new application.

RETURNED CHECK CHARGE

A service charge equal to the actual bank fee assessed to the District, not to exceed \$25.00, will be imposed upon any customer whose check for payment of charge is returned by his or her bank due to insufficient funds.

SECURITY DEPOSIT

Not to exceed two-twelfths (2/12) if the average annual usage of the applicant’s specific customer class or fifty dollars, whichever is greater. This fee may be changed by applicable statutory provisions.

These rates and charges represent the following increases to become effective after final approval by the County Council:

RATE COMPARISON

		<u>Current</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>\$Increase</u>	<u>%Increase</u>
First	2,000 gal/ month	\$10.56/1,000 gal	\$11.45/1,000 gal	\$ 0.89	8.43%
Next	88,000 gal/month	\$6.85/1,000 gal	\$7.42/1,000 gal	\$ 0.57	8.32%
All Over	90,000 gal/month	\$4.84/1,000 gal	\$5.24/1,000 gal	\$ 0.40	8.26%
Average residential bill (3,650 gallons)		\$ 35.14 per month		\$ 2.72	8.39%
Average commercial bill (23,800 gallons)		\$ 184.66 per month		\$ 14.21	8.34%

MINIMUM CHARGE

No bill will be rendered for less than the following per month based on meter size:

	<u>Current</u> <u>Minimum Bill</u>	<u>Proposed</u> <u>Minimum Bill</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
5/8 inch meter	\$21.12/mo.	\$22.90/mo.	\$1.78/mo.	8.43%
1 inch meter	\$52.80/mo.	\$57.24/mo.	\$4.44/mo.	8.41%
1-1/2 inch meter	\$105.60/mo.	\$114.47/mo.	\$8.87/mo.	8.40%
2 inch meter	\$168.96/mo.	\$183.15/mo.	\$14.19/mo.	8.40%
3 inch meter	\$316.80/mo.	\$343.41/mo.	\$26.61/mo.	8.40%
4 inch meter	\$528.00/mo.	\$572.35/mo.	\$44.35/mo.	8.40%
6 inch meter	\$1,056.00/mo.	\$1,144.70/mo.	\$88.70/mo.	8.40%
8 inch meter	\$1,689.60/mo.	\$1,831.50/mo.	\$141.90/mo.	8.40%

The proposed increase rates and charges will produce approximately \$953,300 annually in additional revenue. The increases shown are based on averages of all customers in the indicated class. Individual customers may receive increases that are greater or less than average. Furthermore, the requested rates and charges among the various classes of customers are only a proposal and are subject to approval by the County Council. The proposed water rates and charges are on file with and are available for public inspection at the Office of the Berkeley County Public Service Water District at 251 Caperton Blvd, Martinsburg 25403.

On Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. the Berkeley County Council shall conduct a public hearing to discuss the proposed rate increase. The hearing will take place in the Dunn Building, 400 W. Stephen Street, Suite 205, Martinsburg, WV, 25401. Any person interested may appear before the County Council and present comments with regard to the proposal to increase the District's water rates and charges. Anyone desiring to file a written protest may do so prior to the beginning of the public hearing on June 1, 2017. All protests should briefly state the reason for the protest and should be addressed to Alan J. Davis, County Administrator, 400 W. Stephen Street, Suite 201, Martinsburg, WV 25401. On Thursday, June 8, 2017, at its regular session, at 11:45 a.m., Council will consider and vote on the proposed rate increase. The meeting will be held in the Dunn Building, 400 West Stephen Street, Suite 205, Martinsburg, WV.

Berkeley County Council