Town of Purcellville, VA

Water and Sewer Rate Study Rate Design Overview April 7, 2021



# Study Approach

#### Overview





# Key Objective: A sustainable rate structure

**Goal:** Design rates that fairly recover revenue across and within customer classes, increase fixed cost recovery, and promote conservation.

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# THE COST TO **PROVIDE WATER**

3% Water Revenue Increase Proposed for FY22

\*Increases to \$0.76M in next few years

Capital = \$2.3M Existing Debt = \$0.3M\* Operating =

\$2.3M



# THE COST TO MANAGE SEWER

Capital = \$0.2M

Existing Debt = \$0.9M\*

Operating = \$2.3M

5% Sewer Revenue Increase Proposed for FY22

\*Increases to \$2.5M in next few years

Current Water Rate Structure

## Current Water Rate Structure Impacts



### Water Effective Unit Cost Comparison per 1,000 gallons with Current Water Rate Structure **Effective Unit Water**

Rate



## Current and Proposed Rate Structures

### Water Fixed Charge

Rate Design

### Water Volumetric Charge

Sewer Volumetric Charge

	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
Single Family Residential	Scaled based on meter size	Scaled based on meter size (based on average use)	17 inclining tiers	4 inclining tiers (based on data analysis)
Non-Single Family				4 inclining tiers (tiered by meter size)

#### Sewer Fixed Charge

	Current	Proposed	Current	Proposed
All Customers	Scaled based on meter size	Scaled based on meter size (based on average use)	Uniform rate	Uniform rate

# Proposed Fixed Charge Summary (Bi-Monthly)

**Meter Size Proposed Water** Number of Meter **Current Water** Proposed Current Equivalencies\*\* Water **Fixed Charge Fixed Charge Sewer Fixed Sewer Fixed** Meters\* Charge Charge \$15.00 \$16.00 5/8" 2,873 1.0 \$15.00 \$15.20 3/4" \$15.00 \$48.65 \$15.00 \$51.20 25 3.2 1" 47 4.0 \$37.50 \$61.15 \$37.50 \$64.30 1.5" 6.7 29 \$75.00 \$102.35 \$75.00 \$107.65 2" 25 12.0 \$119.99 \$183.15 \$119.99 \$192.65 3" 26.3 5 \$239.48 \$399.60 \$239.48 \$420.35 4" 2 45.3 \$374.97 \$689.00 \$374.97 \$724.70 6" 96.7 \$479.93 \$1,469.80 \$479.93 \$1,546.10 8" 169.2 \$1,199.88 \$2,572.20 \$1,199.88 \$2,705.30

\*Approximately same number of sewer meters by meter size.

Fixed Charge

\*\*Meter equivalencies calculated based on average billed usage.

# Proposed Water Volumetric Rates

Water Volumetric Rates

Meter Size	Count	Tier 1 (gallons)	Tier 2 (gallons)	Tier 3 (gallons)	Tier 4 (gallons)		
Single Family	2,691	0 to 7,000	7,001-14,000	14,001-20,000	20,001 and over		
Non-Single Family							
5/8"	182	0 to 7,000	7,001-14,000	14,001-20,000	20,001 and over		
3/4"	25	0 to 22,000	22,001-45,000	45,001-64,000	64,001 and over		
1"	47	0 to 28,000	28,001-56,000	56,001-80,000	80,001 and over		
1.5"	29	0 to 47,000	47,001-94,000	94,001-135,000	135,001 and over		
2"	25	0 to 84,000	84,001-169,000	169,001-241,000	241,001 and over		
3"	5	0 to 184,000	184,001-368,000	368,001-526,000	526,001 and over		
4"	2	0 to 317,000	317,001-635,000	635,001-907,000	907,001 and over		
6"	-	0 to 677,000	677,001-1,354,000	1,354,001-1,934,000	1,934,001 and over		
8"	-	0 to 1,185,000	1,185,001-2,369,000	2,369,001- 3,385,000	3,385,001 and over		
Rate (per kgal)		\$7.88	\$13.80	\$17.74	\$21.68		

Volumetric Sewer Rates

## Current and Proposed Sewer Rates

### Current Sewer Rates All Customers

Usage Tier	Sewer Rate		
(kgal)	(per kgal)		
All Usage	\$15.95		

#### Proposed Sewer Rates All Customers

Usage Tier	Sewer Rate		
(kgal)	(per kgal)		
All Usage	\$16.07		

# 1,000 gallons or....



Customer with water and sewer service Three-person (**average user**) household with some outdoor use 8,000 gallons bi-monthly (56<sup>th</sup> percentile)



Customer with water and sewer service Two-person household **(Small User)** 4,000 gallon bi-monthly (19<sup>th</sup> percentile)



Customer with water and sewer service **Large household** with indoor only use 14,000 gallon bi-monthly (92<sup>nd</sup> percentile)



Customer with water and sewer service Large household with indoor and outdoor water use 20,000 gallon bi-monthly (99<sup>th</sup> percentile)



### Combined Bill Impacts

# Representative Non-Single Family Customers

Meter Size	Average Bi-Monthly Usage (kgal)	Current Bi-Monthly Bill	Proposed Bi-Monthly Bill	\$ Change in Bi- Monthly Bill	% Change in Bi- Monthly Bill
5/8"	26	\$744	\$848	\$104	14.0%
5/8"	29	\$847	\$969	\$122	14.4%
3/4"	24	\$682	\$696	\$14	2.1%
1"	190	\$6,559	\$6,587	\$28	0.4%
1.5"	451	\$18,587	\$16,063	(\$2,524)	-13.6%
2"	587	\$27,146	\$19,647	(\$6,724)	-24.8%
3"	228	\$8,145	\$6,555	(\$1,590)	-19.5%
4"	277	\$10,951	\$7,718	(\$2,903)	-26.5%

### Long-Term Rate Forecast (Decoupled from Capital)\*

**Financial Forecast** 

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Water User Rate Increase	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Bi-Monthly Average Bill**	\$84.14	\$86.66	\$89.26	\$91.94	\$94.70
Sewer User Rate Increase	5%	5%	7%	7%	7%
Bi-Monthly Average Bill**	\$144.51	\$151.74	\$162.36	\$173.72	\$185.88
Total	\$228.65	\$238.40	\$251.62	\$265.67	\$280.59

\*Rate forecast assumes funding of operating and existing debt only (excludes future capital)

\*\*Average single family residential 5/8" meter, 8,000 gallon per bi-monthly period

Questions?

Additional Resource Slides



# Bi-Monthly Single Family Tier Sizing: Tier 1



Source: Census Bureau, Residential End Use of Water Survey v2

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Source: Census Bureau, Residential End Use of Water Survey v2

![](_page_22_Figure_0.jpeg)

### Distribution of Single Family Lot Sizes

![](_page_22_Figure_2.jpeg)

Single Family Rate Design

# Outdoor Use: Calculating Irrigation Requirements for the Average Parcel

![](_page_23_Picture_2.jpeg)

# Irrigation Requirement = 6,000 gallons

Single Family Rate Design

# Bi-Monthly Single Family Tier Sizing: Tier 3

![](_page_24_Figure_2.jpeg)

**Bi-Monthly Tiers** 

Tier 3

15-20

Parcel Size: 14,000 Landscape Area: 6,500

## Tier 3 = Additional 6,000 gallons