

March 3rd, 2020

Dear valued Harrington Residents,

By now, you are aware that the water, sewer and garbage rates have gone up this year. The reasons for the increase are, as always, a bit complex. Let this letter be a beginning explanation for you, as a customer, to understand the main aspects of why this is necessary.

- To repay a loan from the Public Works Board for wastewater treatment plant requirements by the Department of Ecology. In order to meet wastewater treatment plant certification requirements, we need to have a hydrogeology report completed, a small water system plan and new monitoring equipment bought and installed. This loan will be paid off in 5 years, at which point the \$2.77 per month charge will be removed from your bills. The majority of the costs of these requirements are being sought through grants.
- To cover the continuing costs of repairs and replacement of our water and sewer lines throughout Harrington, and other utility infrastructure repairs, as needed. We as a city need to make sure we are able to handle current issues, but also be able to look towards the future and make sure there are secure funding sources to keep our ever aging infrastructure in working order.
- Minimum wage was increased by the Department of Labor from \$12.00 to \$13.50 this year. With the minimum wage getting hire it makes it a bigger challenge to be able to pay city employees in all departments, a fair wage for jobs that have a large job description attached. Salaries for our employees come out of our water fund, sewer fund and garbage fund, among others.
- To cover rate increases by Sunshine Disposal and Lincoln County Solid Waste. A total of 4.1% was added to the City's bill from them for fuel charge, tipping, and hauling fees.

As you can see, the cost of operating the City of Harrington continues to rise for all of us.

Unfortunately, with decreasing funds from the state and limited other revenue sources at this time. We are all affected by the increases and sincerely understand any frustration. We appreciate our community and ask for your understanding.

As a city we also encourage your involvement in city issues, activities, and triumphs. Please feel free to contact myself, the clerk, or council members if you would like to share your thoughts or concerns.

Nathan Luck, Acting Mayor



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