

**From:** Linda Frick <lindafrick26@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 12, 2019 1:05 PM  
**To:** drussell@ci.bandon.or.us  
**Subject:** Re: Emergency Water and Sewer Rate Increase Documentation

Let's say, for example, you owned a building supply store, and one day your customers voted not to allow you to ever raise prices. Your merchandise continued to rise in price and other expenses increased, but you could not raise your prices. You kept going back to your customers, explaining your situation, but still they said "no increases." Eventually, you could no longer remain in business, and you were forced to close your doors.

This is essentially the same situation faced by the City of Bandon, but we cannot stop providing clean water and treated sewage ... just because we are not allowed to raise our rates without a vote of the people. This charter amendment was put in place more than 20 years ago by the voters; in the early years we were allowed to raise rates just enough to pay our pre-existing agreements with the state on sewer and water bonds. Those agreements have now been paid off, and we are facing an emergency in our ability to operate and maintain both the sewer and the water utility.

Not only can we not fund day to day operation and maintenance of our facilities, but the sewage treatment plant is nearing the end of its 20-year life and will require extensive upgrades.

The city council has been entrusted to take care of the health and welfare of the people of Bandon.

As a result of a recommendation by the city's utility commission, we are declaring an EMERGENCY, which will require us to raise our water rates 37 percent and our sewer rates 24 percent.

Based on the basic bill, which provides 2,000 gallons of water a month, your bill will go up to approximately \$14 a month.

I looked at my last utility bill. I used 1,000 gallons of water for a water and sewer bill of \$46.22. Even if I had used 2,000 gallons of water, my bill would have gone up only \$14 to \$60.37. In the summer, if I choose to keep a green lawn and water almost daily (whether I need to or not), my bill will increase. If I don't, the increase will continue to be \$14.

How does that same usage compare with our neighbors: in Myrtle Point your bill would be \$70 a month; Powers, \$77 a month; Coos Bay, \$72; Port Orford, \$83 a month and Coquille, \$124 a month. And not only that, our electric bills are cheaper than either Coos-Curry Electric or Pacific Power.

As one member of our utilities commission put it so well: if we are not able to prevent raw sewage from spilling out onto the bay and we can no longer provide safe, clean drinking water, the state could well step in, take over our utilities, and charge whatever is necessary to maintain both systems. That is the last thing we want to happen!

We have dedicated people at both our sewer and water plants. All they ask is they have the resources to maintain those systems. That is why the City Council is acting on the recommendation of the utility commission ...to declare an EMERGENCY.

We will definitely have a town hall meeting to explain our short and long-range plans and what has led up to the emergency declaration.

Again, we are talking about an increase of \$14 a month for those of us who use less than 2,000 gallons of water a month!

On Thu, Sep 12, 2019 at 9:16 AM <[drussell@ci.bandon.or.us](mailto:drussell@ci.bandon.or.us)> wrote:

Good Morning to All,

We need to gather up emails and documents related to the emergency rate increase for the water and sewer for the lawsuit that has been filed. Fred has requested that the documentation be sent to me, which will include **all** documents, emails, text messages, and recorded audio if any. If some of you do not have any information on the subject, please also respond to this email letting me know that. We have a fairly short window on the compilation of these items, please **respond to me with this information by September 17, 2019**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Denise Russell

City Recorder

City of Bandon

541-347-2437

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Linda