of that company, so the letter did not make it into the board packet for the board to consider.

AFD Pavement Marking LLC, striping – $9,930.

ORC Water Professionals, contract O&M – $5,500.

Kempton Construction, Sanctuary Pointe transmission line, 12 percent completion – $76,405.

JDS-Hydro Consultants Inc. Sanctuary Pointe Transmission line – $5,542.

Operations and manager’s reports

Comments from Remington’s reports included:

• “Fats, Oils, and Grease” (FOG) fliers will be distributed in bills to residents to remind them of the expense and to sanitary sewer systems when FOG is washed down the drain instead of being thrown in the trash.

• D-7 well repairs are underway.

• Landscaping has been trimmed up for winter.

Board adjusts water rates for 2016

By James Howald

The Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District board met Oct. 20 to discuss an increase in water rates, to adjust the Renewable Water Investment Fee (RWIF), to review the budget for 2016, and to hear an update on the construction of an access road to Lake Woodmoor.

Rate for non-potable water to increase

16 percent

District Manager Jessie Shaffer updated the board on upcoming changes to the rates the district will charge its customers for water over the next five years. The new rates were developed with advice from Rob Wadsworth of Raffles Financial Consultants Inc., a company specializing in financial services for water utilities. A review of rates is part of the annual budgeting process, Shaffer advised.

Non-potable water does not go through the water treatment system and is therefore priced differently from other types of water the district provides, according to Shaffer. Previously, the rate for non-potable water was $5 per quarter for a customer who was billed for potable water, and was too low to completely recover the costs of delivering non-potable water, Shaffer said.

Shaffer asked the board to approve a 16 percent increase in the cost of non-potable water over the next five years. The new rate reflects a more detailed analysis of the costs to deliver non-potable water, according to Shaffer. The district will also charge a tap fee for non-potable water, which previously it had not done, Shaffer said.

Shaffer also asked the board to approve a rate increase for residential customers of 4 percent. The board voted unanimous-ly to move forward with the new rate structure. Details about the new rates are available on the district’s website (http://www.woodmoorwater.com). A public hearing concerning the rate increases will be held on Dec. 10 at 1 p.m. at 1845 Woodmoor Drive, during the board’s next monthly meeting.

Board lowers Renewable Water Investment Fee (RWIF)

Shaffer also presented to the board an analysis of the district’s RWIF, a fee used to purchase consumable water for the district’s customers. At a previous workshop meeting devoted to the 2016 budget, the board asked Shaffer to look into the risks and benefits of lowering this fee. Shaffer sought advice from the district’s financial advisor Jim Maneer and from the district’s bond attorney Calvin Hansen on this issue, he said.

Setting the district’s RWIF improperly might cause ratings agencies such as Standard and Poor’s to downgrade the district’s AA- credit rating, Shaffer said, which would require the district to pay more to borrow money in the future. By reducing the dis- trict’s debt service coverage ratio through too low an RWIF or re-sorting to poor practices in plan- ning might result in such a down- grade, according to Shaffer.

There are no legal impedi- ments to lowering the RWIF, Shaffer said.

Shaffer said that, accord- ing to his analysis, the board could lower the monthly RWIF to any amount from $42 to $44 per month without incurring ap- preciable risk. The RWIF is currently $45 ($540 per year), Shaf- fer said.

President Barrie Town said the board had a commitment to its customers to lower the RWIF if that could be done without too much risk.

The board voted unanimous-ly to lower the monthly RWIF to $44.

2016 budget proposed

The board reviewed the changes to the 2016 budget that were made following an earlier budget workshop. The 2016 budget is available for the public to review until Dec. 10 in the district office at 1845 Woodmoor Drive.

Access road to Lake Woodmoor more costly than anticipated

Shaffer gave the board an update on the construction of a 200-yard road that, when complete, will run from Lake Woodmoor Drive to the edge of the lake. The re- quired easements are in place, Shaffer said, but the construction costs will exceed the original es- timate by about $10,000. In 2016, a boat ramp will be built at the end of the access road, according to Shaffer.

The board went into execu- tive session at 3:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 10. Meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. For more information, visit www.woodmoorwater.com or call 488-2522 to verify meet- ing times.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me.

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DEC
24
THU
4:30 PM
7:00 PM
11:00 PM*

25
FRIDAY
10:00 AM
SUN
27
1:00 AM
10:45 AM

2015 Financial report and disbursements

**Note:**

- Distribution line − $5,542
- Staff, Planning Commission, and Triview has no planning
- contract O&M − $5,500
- LL − $9,930
- Remington will ask
- the board for a formal recommendation
- for the board to consider.
- Shaffer said that the board
- that the letter did not make it into the board packet for the board to consider.
- when FOG is washed down the drain instead of being thrown in the trash.
- D-7 well repairs are underway.
- Landscaping has been trimmed up for winter.
- The directors unanimously approved the financial report as of Sept. 30. The big unknown was the administration and operations category, which had expanded 58 percent of its budget at 75 percent through the year. Remington said snow removal was immi- nent so it was likely that the bud- geted money would still be used.
- The board reviewed the changes to the budget for 2016, and to hear an update on the construction of an access road to Lake Woodmoor.