



Agenda Item V. A.

Meeting Date: October 3, 2017

Department: Amherst County Service Authority

Topic: **ACSA Water and Sewer Rates Adjustments for 2018**

Board Action: The Board is reviewing a draft ordinance to prepare for a public hearing at its next meeting.

Attachments: 1. Ordinance 2017-0007
2. Announcement for a public hearing

Summary: Amherst County Service Authority (ACSA) is a local government agency that is totally separate from Amherst County and receives no tax revenue from the County to assist with its operations. ACSA must meet all its budgetary requirements using only revenue from the rates and fees it collects. While ACSA strives at all times to minimize costs, occasional rate increases are necessary to account for increased costs of materials, labor, and other aspects of operations; pay our debt service for bonds for capital improvements to keep the water and sewer systems functioning properly; prepare for future capital needs regarding water and sewer systems extensions and improvements and regulations changes; and other commitments and liabilities regarding operation of a water-sewer utility. The ACSA Board committed several years to modest annual adjustments in rates and fees to minimize the financial on customers, rather than no adjustments for several years followed by a large change in the rates and fees. The adjustments proposed for 2018 are in line with annual increases in water and wastewater costs projected by the American Water Works Association in its June 2015 Journal.

The rate changes are contained in draft Ordinance 2017-0007. To become final the Board must receive public comment; a public hearing can be scheduled for the October 17 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Recommended Motion: I move that the Board of Supervisors direct staff to schedule and announce an October 17 public hearing to discuss water and sewer rates adjustments.



**Amherst County Board of Supervisors
County Ordinance No. 2017-0007**

AN ORDINANCE, NO. 2017-0007

Amending §§ 15-122 and 15-123 of Article IV of Chapter 15 of the Amherst County Code to increase water and sewer service charges and fees.

Approved as to form and legality by the County Attorney

FIRST READING: Board of Supervisors, October 3, 2017

PUBLIC HEARING: Board of Supervisors, October 17, 2017

THE COUNTY OF AMHERST HEREBY ORDAINS:

§ 1. That Sections 15-122 and 15-123 of Article IV of Chapter 15 of the Code of the County of Amherst be and hereby are amended, as follows:

Sec. 15-122. - Water service charges.

- (a) Each premises that is supplied water by the Amherst County Service Authority shall be charged for water service as metered. The charges for the provision of water service shall be based on metered water consumption. The rate for water, per one hundred (100) cubic feet of water metered, shall be four dollars and ~~forty-two cents (\$4.42)~~ sixty seven cents (\$4.67).
- (b) Each billing for water service also shall include a ~~twenty-two dollar (\$22.00)~~ twenty three dollar (\$23.00) water basic service charge.
- (c) Payment is due on the first day of each billing month.

Sec. 15-123. - Sewer service charges.

- (a) All premises that dispose of sewage to the Amherst County Service Authority sewerage system shall be charged for sewer service. The system shall not accept sewage of the strength or quality prohibited either by division 2 of article III of this chapter or by the City of Lynchburg, Virginia sewer use ordinance, as provided by the regional agreement between the county and the City of Lynchburg. Any user whose waste effluent exceeds the limits below shall immediately stop discharging to the system and take steps to bring the waste within the following limits:

Wastewater Limits

Characteristic	Limits
BOD ₅	300 ppm
Suspended Solids	400 ppm,
pH	6.0 to 8.0
COD	1400 ppm
Total Oil and Grease	50 ppm

- (b) Premises served with water shall be charged for sewer service based on metered water consumption. The rate for sewage produced shall be six dollars and ~~thirty cents (\$6.30)~~ seventy nine cents (\$6.79) per one hundred (100) cubic feet of water metered.
- (c) Each billing for sewer service shall include a ~~two dollar (\$2.00)~~ three dollar (\$3.00) sewer basic service charge.

§ 2. That this ordinance shall be in force and effect upon adoption.

§ 3. That the fees and charges established by this ordinance shall be used to calculate water and sewer bills issued January 1, 2018, and thereafter, unless and until they are amended further.

Adopted this 17th day of October, 2017.

Claudia D. Tucker, Chair
Amherst County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Dean C. Rodgers, Clerk
Amherst County Board of Supervisors

Ayes _____

Nays _____

Abstentions _____

Notice of Public Hearing of the Amherst County Board of Supervisors

The Amherst County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing during its regular meeting commencing at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 17, 2017, in the Amherst County Administration Building, 153 Washington Street, Amherst, Virginia 24521, to consider adoption of the following ordinance:

Ordinance 2017-0007: Amending §§ 15-122 and 15-123 of Article IV, Rates, of Chapter 15 of the Amherst County Code, to increase water and sewer service rates. Increases of new service fees (availability fee, connection fee, account deposit, and account set-up fee) are not requested for either water or sewer.

Amendments to rates and text include the following:

§15-122 Water Service Charges: An increase of \$0.25 per one hundred cubic feet of water used, from \$4.42 to \$4.67. The basic service charge shall increase \$1.00, from \$22.00 to \$23.00, per bill rendered. The impact of the above changes on residential water accounts, using the utility-wide average of one hundred twenty gallons per day (120 GPD), would be an increase of \$1.75/month.

§15-123 Sewer Service Charges: An increase of \$0.49 per one hundred cubic feet of water used, from \$6.30 to \$6.79. The basic service charge shall increase \$1.00, from \$2.00 to \$3.00, per bill rendered. The impact of the above changes on residential sewer accounts, using the utility-wide average of one hundred twenty gallons per day (120 GPD), would be an increase of \$3.45/month.

The proposed new rates will take effect with the billing of January 1, 2018.

The proposed ordinance is available for review from Monday through Friday from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. in the County Administrator's office at the above address, and at the Water Office of the Amherst County Service Authority, 113 Phelps Road, Madison Heights, Virginia 24572.

Accommodations for disabled persons may be made by calling 434-946-9400 at least five (5) days prior to the hearing date.

Dean C. Rodgers
Amherst County Administrator

Central Virginia Newspapers Review Order Confirmation for Ad #0000600271-01

Ad Content Proof Actual Size

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