

BCC Water District Board Votes to Raise Monthly Water Rates.

The Black Canyon City Water Improvement District (BCCWID) held a rate hearing for the coming fiscal year at 8:15 PM on Thursday, June 21, 2007. The BCCWID is committed to pay-as-you-go financing of ALL District costs, which essentially means without use of either property taxation or bond issuance. Our operation expenses and capital improvement needs are thusly covered by monthly billings. Keeping this in mind, the Board reviewed the recommendation of the 2007 Budget Committee regarding current rates and the potential need for adjustment.

The Budget Committee expressed concern that future unexpected and unavoidable costs like the recent Yavapai County street paving project could deplete the District's cash reserves for other necessary capital improvements. Since our streets are being replaced to County code and the water lines under them were laid up to 50 years ago, some only a few inches to a foot deep, most of the water lines have to be replaced at costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Acknowledging this and the tremendous amounts of money that the District recently spent on federally mandated arsenic and chlorination systems, this spring's Budget Committee recommended a rate increase of \$5.00/month/account for the next fiscal year. After presentations of the Committee's findings to the Board by both management and the Treasurer, the Board further discussed the issue and voted unanimously to implement the committee's recommendation starting in July of this year.

A management survey of the rates of surrounding water companies and water districts showed that even at the new rate, BCCWID billings will remain in the mid-level of monthly billings for water in the State of Arizona. Any questions concerning the rate increase should be referred to Management at 374-9408 or the Board Chair at 374-9270.

Respectfully submitted to the Big Bug News by Chair Robert Marley