

RESOLUTION NO. 121

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT INCREASES FOR WATER RATES, SEWER RATES, PLANT INVESTMENT FESS, AND CHARGES FOR BIGFORK COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the District hired Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc, and held a public hearing on May 29th to provide a detailed rate study and 5 year financial plan to ensure that an adequate level of income from water and sewer rates are maintained to finance daily operations, fund needed maintenance and improvement projects, meet debt coverage requirements, fund reserves, and ensure rates are fair and aligned with the District's goals and community values.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the District (the "Board") as follows:

1. Reason for Adopted Water Rate Increase. Revenue from rates need to be sufficient to cover operating expenses, repair and replace capital, debt service coverages, and supplement growth-related capital when necessary. Current rates are not sufficient to cover annual expenses. Therefore, revenue adjustments are required to generate sufficient revenue to cover annual expenses and to build reserves over the 5-year financial plan. Equal annual revenue adjustments of 7% from FY 2026 to FY 2030 are needed to meet these requirements.
2. New Monthly Base Water Rates and Charges. The District adopts new monthly base water rates effective July 1st, 2025 as follows:

FY 2026 BASE WATER RATES		
Meter Size	Allowance (Gallons)	\$/ Per Month
3/4"	0	\$31.89
1"	0	\$79.98
1 1/2"	0	\$160.12
2"	0	\$256.37
3"	0	\$517.24
4"	0	\$801.59
6"	0	\$1,603.39

3. New Monthly Water Volume Charges. The District adopts new monthly water volume rates and charges effective July 1st, 2025 as follows:

FY 2026 VOLUME WATER RATES		
Meter Size	Threshold (Gallons)	\$/ Per Thousand Gallons
¾"	5,000	\$1.25
¾"	15,000	\$1.57
¾"	35,000	\$2.35
¾"	>35,000	\$3.52
1"	15,000	\$1.25
1"	60,000	\$1.57
1"	170,000	\$2.35
1"	>170,000	\$3.52
1.5"	25,000	\$1.25
1.5"	75,000	\$1.57
1.5"	200,000	\$2.35
1.5"	>200,000	\$3.52
2"	40,000	\$1.25
2"	90,000	\$1.57
2"	240,000	\$2.35
2"	>240,000	\$3.52
3"	50,000	\$1.25
3"	100,000	\$1.57
3"	250,000	\$2.35
3"	>250,000	\$3.52
4"	80,000	\$1.25
4"	175,000	\$1.57
4"	440,000	\$2.35
4"	>440,000	\$3.52

4. Reason for Adopted Sewer Rate Increase. Revenue from rates need to be sufficient to cover operating expenses, repair and replace capital, debt service coverages, and supplement growth-related capital when necessary. Current rates are not sufficient to cover annual expenses. Therefore, revenue adjustments are required to generate sufficient revenue to cover annual expenses and to build reserves over the 5-year financial plan. Equal annual revenue adjustments of 16% from FY 2026 to FY 2030 are needed to meet these requirements.
5. New Monthly Base Sewer Rates and Charges. The District adopts new monthly base sewer rates effective July 1st, 2025 as follows:

FY 2026 BASE SEWER RATES		
Meter Size	Allowance (GALLONS)	\$/ Per Month
¾"	5,000	\$58.70
1"	13,000	\$147.33
1 ½"	25,000	\$294.95
2"	40,000	\$472.16
3"/Flathead Lake Lodge Rate	75,000	\$885.55
4"	125,000	\$1,476.26
6"	250,000	\$2,952.70
FLAT	NA	\$58.70
Sewer Volume- \$/Kgal Usage Allowance- \$2.73 per thousand gallons		

6. Plant Investment Fees For New Connections. All people, developers, corporations, or others requesting connection to the district water and sewer system will be charged a plant investment fee to cover their proportionate share of the capital costs of the existing system. Plant investment fees are designed to recover the cost of capacity required to serve the district.

7. New Water Plant Investment Fees. The District adopts new water plant investments fees effective July 1st, 2025 as follows:

FY 2026 WATER PLANT INVESTMENT FEES		
Meter Size	Edu Ratio	Plant Investment Fee
3/4"	1.00	\$7,368
1"	1.79	\$13,189
1 1/2"	4.00	\$29,472
2"	7.14	\$52,608
3"	16.00	\$117,888
4"	28.57	\$210,504
5"	44.64	\$328,908
6"	64.29	\$473,689
7"	87.11	\$641,826
8"	133.78	\$985,691
9"	144.00	\$1,060,992
10"	177.78	\$1,309,883

8. **New Sewer Plant Investment Fess.** The District adopts new sewer plant investment fees effective July 1st, 2025 as follows:

FY 2026 SEWER PLANT INVESTMENT FEES		
Meter Size	Edu Ratio	Plant Investment Fee
3/4"	1.00	\$14,729
1"	1.79	\$26,365
1 1/2"	4.00	\$58,916
2"	7.14	\$105,165
3"	16.00	\$235,664
4"	28.57	\$420,808
5"	44.64	\$657,503
6"	64.29	\$946,927
7"	87.11	\$1,283,043
8"	133.78	\$1,970,446
9"	144.00	\$2,120,976
10"	177.78	\$2,618,522

9. Other Charges. The District adopts new miscellaneous charges effective July 1st, 2025 as follows:

Water Late Fees proposed to increase from \$2.50 per month to \$12.50 per month.
Sewer Late Fees proposed to increase from \$2.50 per month to \$12.50 per month.
Proposed Water and Sewer service turn-on/turn-off cost of \$25.00.
Proposed Check for Leak/Data log fee of \$25.00.
Proposed Transfer of Service fee of \$25.00.
Proposed Door tag fee for non-payment of \$5.00.

10. Effective Date. The above-referenced adopted rates will go into effect July 1, 2025. These rate increases are scheduled for yearly review and hearings FY 2026 through FY 2030, according to Section 7-13-2301, per MCA the board will review the rates and charges annually.

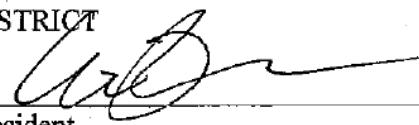
11. Public Hearing. A public hearing on adopting the above-mentioned rate increases was held on May 29th, 2025, at 1:00pm in Bigfork, MT at 108 Harbor Heights Blvd.

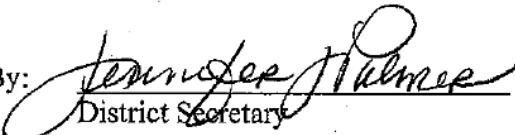
12. Contact. Tyler Hantz, Assistant District Manager, may be contacted for more information about the rates or the hearing at (406) 837-4566.

Passed and approved by the Board of Directors this 10th day of June 2025.

BIGFORK COUNTY WATER AND SEWER
DISTRICT

ATTEST:


President

By: 
Jennifer Palmer
District Secretary