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MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

WATER METER READINGS

It has been five months since we have read water meters. If the snow is still around by the end of March, we will have to postpone reading meters until April. But, ***weather permitting***, meters will be read on March 25th & 26th and your water bill may or may not reflect water use overages. During each of those five months you were billed for the minimum use of 4,125 gallons/550 cubic ft. of water. If your household used above the minimum amount then the overage will reflect on the billing you will receive at the end of March due by April 20th. Any water customer whose monthly water charges have suddenly and unexpectedly increased as the result of a water leak may petition the Town Council for an adjustment in the charges for the period during which the leak remained undetected, provided, as a condition of any such adjustment, the Town Council must:

- *Find that the customer did not know about the water leak and could not have reasonably known about the water leak during the period for which the adjustment is sought;*
- *When the leak was finally discovered, the customer took reasonable action to promptly repair the leak;*
- *The Town Council must find that the increased water charge resulting from the leak during the period for which the adjustment is sought will impose an undue hardship upon the water customer.*

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The Town of Oakesdale applied for a loan from the Department of Health to upgrade our water system for \$2.6 million. We received the notice from DOH that our application was approved for funding. The best part of the news is our Town qualified for 50% forgiveness of the loan. We will now only need to borrow \$1.3 million to upgrade our water mains, water service lines, water meters and fire hydrants for approximately half the Town and we will have new paved streets as a bonus! DOH has stated that basic water rates will have to be increased to afford the loan. We will be obtaining the rate increase amount within the next 30 days from DOH. Once we have that information, we will have a Public Hearing to discuss the rate increase and more information will follow in the next newsletter.

FRIENDLY REMINDER

This is a friendly reminder to ***not dispose of baby wipes or sanitary products down the toilet***. These products cause havoc on our equipment at our lagoons. We realize some baby wipes and hygiene wipes say they are biodegradable, but in fact they are not dissolving or breaking up when they reach the lagoons and get wrapped around the grinders. Thank you!

Remember...your dog tags were due in January. The cost of a dog tag in March is now \$17.50 for spayed/neutered and \$20.00 if the dog is not spayed/neutered. You must have current rabies vaccination records to license your dog(s). Your dog licenses fees cannot be included on the same check as your water/sewer payment. Please provide a separate payment for the dog licenses fees. Thank you!