

TOWN OF JACKSON'S

2020 Water Rates, Wastewater Rates, and Capacity Fee Study

DECEMBER 2020

PRESERVING AND PROTECTING THE AREA'S ECOSYSTEM IN
ORDER TO ENSURE A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY
AND ECONOMY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.



Originally adopted in 2012, the Town of Jackson Comprehensive Plan is meant to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our community and preserve our community character for future generations. The Town of Jackson recently took a fresh look at its Comprehensive Plan and approved updates that will ensure it remains consistent with our community values and shared vision for the future.

Also accomplished this year was a comprehensive study of rates and fees associated with water service, wastewater service, and fees charged for new connections to the Town's infrastructure. The last such study was conducted in 2000. With updates made periodically in the early 2010s, current rates have been unchanged for the past 7 years.

Significant Public Involvement

The Town Council believes strongly that our community must have a voice early in any process that leads to decisions that affect them. Therefore, the rate study process included two key elements to ensure the highest degree of resident and stakeholder input.



The Town hosted virtual workshops, with online surveys collected at a key point in the process. The workshop recordings were posted on the Town's website.



The Town sought volunteers to sit on a Citizen Review Committee. The 10-member group made up a varied group of customers and stakeholders with diverse perspectives on water and wastewater.

CRC Mission:

To assemble diverse perspectives that represent our community to evaluate and advise on the Town's water and wastewater rates and rate structure(s).

CRC Objectives:

1

Provide views that are representative of respective stakeholder groups

2

Provide input on rate structure options and associated customer impacts

3

Formulate a recommendation to the Town Council



With the help of an independent financial consultant specializing in water/wastewater fees for utilities across the US, the study evaluated the Town's:

- Cash flow with accompanying financial analysis
- Current and future capital improvement and maintenance needs
- Current rate and fee structure's ability to fully recover the cost of providing service to each customer type and group

High-level Findings

The study revealed that while the Town's water and wastewater utilities are in good financial health, current rates and fees were not covering services provided. Also, revenue collected would be insufficient to fund critical maintenance and infrastructure investment estimated at \$24 million over the next decade.




When we confirmed that a new rate structure was necessary, we asked ourselves, so how can changes be consistent with our Comprehensive Plan and our shared community values?

Citizen Review Committee's Recommendation to Council

The CRC's recommendation to Council, which was adopted in December 2020 and will be effective on July 1, 2021, included elements designed to make progress with respect to:

- **Conservation and water efficiency**, to respect our place in the ecosystem and align with the Town's Comprehensive Plan
- **Affordability**, to ensure even our most economically vulnerable neighbors can afford basic water and wastewater service
- **Predictability**, so individuals, families, and businesses can effectively plan budgets for the future
- **Fairness**, so everyone pays their fair share based on the cost of serving them

The new rates and fees are also responsive to the three specific Community Values listed in the updated Comprehensive Plan:

COMMUNITY VALUE	NEW RATES AND FEES STRUCTURE WILL:
 Ecosystem Stewardship	<p>Enable the Town to complete maintenance and service upgrades valued at \$24 million over the next 10 years to continue providing high-quality service while maintaining water quality.</p> <p>Encourage water conservation and water efficiency by introducing a tiered rate structure where those who use a lot of water will pay more for high water use compared to their neighbors that use water more efficiently.</p>
 Growth Management	<p>Require growth to pay its fair share, by raising fees paid by developers to connect to the Town's water and wastewater systems. Higher fees will be equivalent to the costs new development places on our water and wastewater systems.</p>
 Quality of Life	<p>Make utility bills more affordable, especially for those who are efficient with their water use.</p>

THE TOWN OF JACKSON THANKS EVERYONE
WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY, WITH SPECIAL
THANKS TO MEMBERS OF THE CITIZEN REVIEW
COMMITTEE AND TOWN STAFF.

CRC Members

Michelle Anderson

Jackson Hole Airport

Jessica Jaubert

JH Working

Mark Barron

High Country Linen Service

Pat Lowham

Lowham Associates

Ray Elser

Citizen

Fernando Ramos

White Buffalo Club

Guy Evans

Jackson Golf and Tennis

John Wasson

Wilson Sewer Board

Jeff Golightly

Snow King

Bill Wotkyns

3 Creek

Town Staff

Kelly Thompson

Finance Director

Johnny Ziem

Assistant Public Works

Brian Lenz

Town Engineer

Director/Wastewater

Manager

Susan Scarlatta

Community Engagement

Specialist

For More Information

VISIT THE TOWN'S WEBSITE AT
JACKSONWY.GOV OR CALL THE PUBLIC
WORKS DEPARTMENT AT 307-733-3079

