



INVITATION TO COMMENT IN PUBLIC HEARINGS ON OWASA'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR JULY 2021 THROUGH JUNE 2022 AND PROPOSED RATES

Thursday, May 27, 2021, at 6 PM; Public Hearings to be Held Virtually

Orange Water and Sewer Authority proposes Fiscal Year 2022 budget needed to operate, maintain, and invest in community's water infrastructure; 5% rate increase proposed

On the lake, in the field, at the lab, and in the office, OWASA's diverse and essential team manages Carrboro-Chapel Hill's community water system. Next year's budget will pay for investments necessary to provide the community with water and sewer service, protect the environment, and protect public health, including the retention of a highly skilled and dedicated workforce. It also will support our ongoing commitment to the community's pandemic recovery.

OWASA's investments in the community's water and sewer infrastructure are supported exclusively by fees from customers: not taxes or grants. Nearly 50% of the bill customers pay for services goes toward funding critical capital improvement projects to upgrade pipes, pumps, and other important infrastructure. These investments will serve our community for many years to come. The other 50% supports the maintenance and operation of the system 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Last year, in the early months of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, OWASA adopted a budget for the 2021 Fiscal Year with no change in rates, despite the need for 5% rate increase. In order to meet this goal, critical capital projects were delayed, and staff received no increase in pay. It is not sustainable to continue to delay these investments critical to providing reliable service and protecting public health.

You are invited to attend the OWASA Board of Directors' virtual public hearings on Thursday, May 27, on the proposed budget and rate schedule for the coming fiscal year. Due to COVID-19 public health concerns, the public hearings will be held virtually. Members of the public can attend and observe on-line or on the phone. Visit owasa.org/board-of-directors-meetings for information on how to join.

If you would like to speak to the Board during the public hearings, please register by 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting by contacting the Clerk to the Board at aorbich@owasa.org or 919-537-4217. To submit written comments before or within 24 hours after the public hearing, please email the Board at board_and_leadership@owasa.org or via US Postal Service to Clerk to the Board, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro, NC 27510.

The Board is considering a budget that will require a 5% increase in monthly water and sewer rates and increases to water service and meter installation charges based on the costs to provide those services. A 5% increase in rates will raise the average residential bill for 4,000 gallons of water and sewer service by \$3.79 to \$79.46. OWASA's cost control efforts in Fiscal Year 2021 have helped to mitigate the need for a larger rate increase next year. Adjusted rates will go into effect on October 1, 2021.

MONTHLY WATER VOLUME CHARGES		
Increasing block water rates for individually-metered residences		
	WATER USE PER MONTH	PROPOSED
Block 1	1,000-2,000 gal./month	\$2.96 per 1,000 gal.
Block 2	3,000 – 5,000 gal./month	7.18 per 1,000 gal.
Block 3	6,000 – 10,000 gal./month	8.81 per 1,000 gal.
Block 4	11,000 – 15,000 gal./month	12.31 per 1,000 gal.
Block 5	16,000 and more gal./month	22.26 per 1,000 gal.
Year-round rate: multi-family master-metered complexes \$6.07 per 1,000 gallons / \$6.37 per 1,000 gallons		
Seasonal water rates for businesses, institutions, and other non-residential customers		
Off-peak seasonal rate (October – April)	\$4.46 per 1,000 gal.	\$4.68 per 1,000 gal.
Peak seasonal rate (May – September)	8.47 per 1,000 gal.	8.89 per 1,000 gal.
Irrigation-only water rates (service through a separate meter used only for irrigation) (does not vary by time of year)		
	\$9.11 per 1,000 gal.	\$9.57 per 1,000 gal.
MONTHLY SEWER VOLUME CHARGES		
Gallons billed per month for sewer-only service	Minimum of 4,000	Minimum of 4,000
Same rate for all meter sizes	\$6.94 per 1,000 gal.	\$7.29 per 1,000 gal.
Max. billed at individually-metered residences	15,000 gal./month	15,000 gal./month
SEPTAGE/HIGH STRENGTH WASTEWATER		
Charge per 1,000 gallons	\$149.94	\$157.44
Administrative charge per trip	30.00	30.00
Charges per pound		
Biological Oxygen Demand	0.46	0.48
Suspended Solids	0.56	0.59
Ammonia Nitrogen	3.26	3.42
Phosphorus	13.13	13.79
SERVICE INSTALLATIONS		
Complete water service, 5/8" meter	\$4,600	\$6,180
Complete water service, 3/4" meter with fire protection	4,840	6,480
Complete water service, 1" meter	4,850	6,350
Meter only, 5/8"	260	250
Meter only, 3/4" fire + domestic service	500	550
Meter only, 1" fire + domestic service	540	600
Meter only, 1"	340	280
Meter only, 1-1/2"	650	640
1 1/2" meter-only with fire protection	830	910
Meter only, 2"	1,320	1,160
Meter only, 2" fire + domestic service	1,000	1,190
Remote readable 5/8" meter and box	500	550
Delivery charge – 3" and larger meter	160	160
Water tap (minimum fee)	430	440
Water tap reinspection fee	150	150
Sewer tap (minimum fee)	520	530
Sewer tap reinspection fee	150	150
Reinspect backflow preventer or grease trap	150	150

MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES, BY METER SIZE		
	Current rate	PROPOSED
Conventional water service		
5/8" meter – domestic service	\$15.74	\$16.53
3/4" for domestic and fire service	16.28	17.09
1" domestic service	31.63	33.21
1" meter for domestic and fire service	32.16	33.77
1 1/2" meter domestic service	68.39	71.81
2" meter domestic service	103.22	108.38
3" meter domestic service	212.29	222.90
4" meter domestic service	346.55	363.88
6" meter domestic service	754.69	792.32
8" domestic service	1,073.21	1,126.87
Irrigation-only water service		
5/8" meter	\$25.21	\$26.47
1"	50.39	52.91
1 1/2"	93.28	97.94
2"	143.47	150.64
3"	283.98	298.18
4"	435.92	457.72
6"	857.52	900.40
8"	1,363.70	1,431.89
Sewer service		
5/8" or 3/4" meter	\$12.85	\$13.49
1"	22.07	23.17
1 1/2"	38.05	39.95
2"	57.53	60.41
3"	108.79	114.23
4"	166.30	174.72
6"	304.91	320.16
8"	520.31	546.33
MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES		
Service start/stop, during business hours	\$45	\$45
Service start/stop, after business hours	80	80
Security deposit, if required (residence)	50 or 100	50 or 100
Security deposit, if required (non-residential)	2 x avg. bill	2 x avg. bill
Late payment fee, if balance is \$10 or more	2.40 + 5% int.	2.40 + 5% int.
Account delinquency fee	45	45
Recovery of debt collection costs	actual cost	actual cost
Returned check/dishonored draft	25	25
Hydraulic fire flow test	230	240
Set or remove temporary hydrant meter	320	320
Hydrant meter security deposit	1,000	1,000
Field test of 5/8" or 3/4" meter (if a fee)	100	100
Field test of larger meter	190 (minimum)	500 (minimum)
Shop meter test (meter > 3/4")	220	220
Bulk water sale, admin. charge/trip	25	25
Bulk water per 1,000 gal.	6.45	6.77
Construction observation per foot (\$100 minimum)	3.69	3.69
Plans review per foot (\$100 minimum)	3.63	3.63
Partial certification fee, per additional submittal to state	NA	225
Manual meter reading charge (per month)	45	NA

OWASA is Carrboro-Chapel Hill's not-for-profit public service agency delivering high-quality water, reclaimed water, and wastewater services. Learn more at owasa.org.