

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RATE AND FEE HEARING
HYBRID MEETING: IN-PERSON ~ VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 6:00pm ~ Corbett Fire Hall 36930 E Hist. Col. Riv. Hwy

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Arion, Erika Bronson, Andrew Parker
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dan Graff, Angie Kimpo
STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: District Manager Andrew Dirks, District Clerk Kelsey Zavoral, District Clerk Heather McGivney, Clerk Lynda Ronell

AMENDED AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order** – Board President Erika Bronson called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
- 2. Roll Call** – Dan Graff and Angie Kimpo were absent. All other Board Members were present.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda** – Michael Arion moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Andrew Parker (*motion passed 3 yes votes: M. Arion, E. Bronson, A. Parker; 0 no votes*).

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Consider Proposals for Water Rate increases including Base rates, Usage rates, and Fees

- A. *Summary of Proposal* – Andrew Dirks presented three options for a rate increase based on inflation. We gathered information on three different inflation indices: *CPI-Urban Core Western Region*, which measures how much prices are changing for everyday things people buy in the urban parts of the western U.S., excluding food and energy; *PPI Core*, which measures the wholesale inflation rate for the materials and services used to build and provide things while ignoring food, energy, and retail markups; and *CPI Water/Sewer/Trash*, which measures how much household utility bills for water, sewer, and trash services have increased for consumers nationwide.
- Each inflation figure came from the year-over-year change from January 2025 to January 2026. CPI-U Core Western Region was 2.9%, PPI Core was 3.6%, and CPI Water/Sewer/Trash was 4.7%. Andrew then went over how much each inflation rate would affect customer water bills, and the projected increase in income, based on Fiscal Year 2024-25 data.
 - Key fee changes included eliminating free notary services to customers (it would change to \$10 per signature for everyone), increasing After Hours Call Out fees to \$200, and new connection fees to \$4,000 for a ¾” connection. The proposal includes a year-round base rate to maintain ongoing system access, including during periods of seasonal service suspensions. They also discussed eliminating the option for 1.5-inch meter connections; current customers would be grandfathered in and CWD would continue to maintain and replace existing 1.5-inch meters.
 - The group agreed to consider a larger rate increase now to avoid bigger increases in the future, and to conduct a comprehensive rate study once the District’s capital improvement goals are established.
- B. *Public Comments*
- Lauri Aunan is concerned about low snowpack levels in the watershed. The Natural Resources Conservation Service estimates that currently we are at 37% of normal, which could impact summer water supply and wildfire risk. CWD is currently planning to look into a secondary water source, and do other capital improvements to the water system, which Lauri strongly

THIS WAS A PUBLIC MEETING

Revised 4/14/26, 4:15pm, pg 1

encourages. She believes that the Board should consider a reasonable rate increase now to begin readiness for that future planning.

- Kelly Piper is alarmed at what Lauri said about the snowpack levels and thinks we should mention it in our next newsletter to inform customers that they might need to conserve.
- Matt Bruton suggested that we maintain a more consistent amount in our annual increases so it's not 2% one year and then 5% the next year. He is concerned that the highest proposal here may not be enough.
- Nina Sackett expressed urgency about addressing public safety issues like fire hydrant upgrades and readiness concerns due to snowpack levels, advocating for a rate increase that can fund some immediate improvements.

C. Discussion and questions

- Michael Arion said that he believes that, once we have a complete Capital Improvement Plan, we're looking at a really significant rate increase. So he's leaning toward recommending the highest inflation rate presented, the CPI Water/Sewer/Trash, which seems most in line with where we are now.
- Erika Bronson agreed that it might be wise to do a larger than normal rate increase now to soften the blow of that future rate increase to support the capital improvements. She would hate to see a smaller rate increase this year and then a big one next year. She knows of other utilities that are proposing 8 or 9% increases. Andrew Dirks said that we will have to do a rate study before doing any capital improvements, and it might be wise to cushion the blow now to ease the increases going forward.
- Andrew Parker thinks that the District has a lot of work to do, and it a really good thing that we are making a capital plan that can guide our actions and rates going forward.

2. Board Recommends to keep rate and fees the same or to approve an increase and instruct on possible Resolution language

- Michael Arion moved to use the CPI Water/Sewer/Trash of 4.7% as a rate increase for the next fiscal year, seconded by Andrew Parker (*motion passed 3 yes votes: M. Arion, E. Bronson, A. Parker; 0 no votes*).
- Michael Arion moved to approve the changes in fees that were presented, seconded by Andrew Parker (*motion passed 3 yes votes: M. Arion, E. Bronson, A. Parker; 0 no votes*).

Resolution 2026.04.21 to Increase Rates and Fees will be voted upon at the April 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING – Board President Erika Bronson adjourned the meeting at 6:26pm.

THIS WAS A PUBLIC MEETING

Revised 4/14/26, 4:15pm, pg 2