

Members Present: Judy Greinke – Chair, Claudia Ellsworth – Island Manager, Charles Smith – WDM, Janet Podell – HMC Board Member, Kathy Deuster - Committee Member

The meeting opened at 1:00 PM and Charles Smith reported on discussions with the HMC Roads Dept. to use the old abandoned reservoir at the Water Lots. It is being considered as joint storage for both Water and Roads for maintenance equipment and supplies. The building was constructed in the late 1950's so a plan is being considered to cut an 8 foot doorway to provide access and ventilation with an estimated cost of about \$1,300. A steel frame would be used as a header for the doorway and gravel placed at the approach.

Rain water run-off needs to be drained from the reservoir and from other buildings on the property to keep the area clean and usable. Additional gravel and grading has been completed which created a solid drivable roadway and also has drained all the standing water from the SW corner of the property.

At the present time water is billed quarterly with a flat rate which covers Operations, Maintenance and Water Usage. Changes will occur when billing includes tiered rates and members are billed for actual water usage. Some changes that were discussed:

- Six month billing would be cost effective.
- Members who prefer to pay their water bills monthly or quarterly may make payments prior to due date.
- Meter Reading schedule must be changed to occur at mid month; two weeks before billing date.
- Water usage can only be billed from past usage so water bills sent out in February would cover water usage August through January. A Bill sent out in August would cover water usage February through July.
- This schedule puts increased seasonal water consumption into different billing periods.
- Usage will be calculated using the average daily consumption each month.
- Total actual gallons used each month may be listed.
- Tiered rates for water usage over the base amount may be calculated at a per gallon rate.

HMC rate study data includes one full year for each connection's usage. There is a wide range of usage amounts from 0 up to over 4,000 average daily gallons. The committee has reviewed and compared other water company's rates and although most companies have 0 usage included in their base fee, HMC will include a basic amount of water in their base fee to save on taxes. Goals to achieve with new water rates include conservation by charging extra for excessive usage; produce enough income to cover all costs of the water department, and fair charges for normal average usage.

Minutes written by Judy Greinke