

# February 2024 City News



## Employee Spotlight

ON

Bill Gustafson

## Water & Sewer Rates to Increase

The water and sewer rates are going up in Fosston effective with the bill you receive February 10, 2024 as approved by the Utilities Commission at its most recent meeting.



The volumetric rate of water will increase by \$.15 per thousand gallons. The water facility charge will increase by \$1.00. The increase is needed to cover future payments on low interest loans from the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) as well as increases in operating costs of the water distribution system. PFA financing assisted in the cost to install new water distribution lines in the community in 2014. Many of the water lines in Fosston are cast iron pipe and are more than 60 years old.

### Meet the city staff that serve you!

**Department:**  
Natural Gas Foreman

**Date started at city:**  
May 27, 2008

**Favorite part of working at the city:** "working with all the guys."

**Hobbies/activities** racing

**Fun Fact about Bill:** Bill is a race car driver.

**Motto:**  
"If you aint first you're last."  
- Ricky Bobby

As the distribution system ages, the City is experiencing more water main breaks due to electrolysis on the aging pipes.

The current rate for water is \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons used plus a \$21.00 per month facility charge per month. The new water rate will be \$5.15 per 1,000 gallons used plus a \$22.00 monthly facility charge.

The sanitary sewer increase will be \$.15 per thousand gallons used. The facility charge will also increase by \$1.00 for sewer. The increase is needed to cover future payments on a loan from the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) as well as increases in operating costs of the sanitary sewer system. The PFA note was used to assist in the construction of the wastewater treatment facility expansion project. The City received a \$3,584,751 grant from the Public Facilities Authority in addition to the \$3,798,231 in loans to help fund the project.

The current rate for sewer is \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons used plus a \$24.00 facility charge per month. The new sewer rate will be \$6.15 per 1,000 gallons used plus a \$25.00 monthly facility charge.

The average residential water customer in Fosston discharges 3,600 gallons per month into the sewer and will pay an additional \$1.54 per month for water service. The average commercial customer uses 13,800 gallons per month and will pay an additional \$3.07 per month on their water bill.



## February Fact or Fiction

**Fiction:** The dispute with Essentia is over.

**Fact:** The city is still working towards a resolution within the dispute resolution process as called out in the affiliation agreement. The dispute is entering arbitration. The three member arbitration panel has been selected and a date for arbitration should be in the next 6 months. The city remains committed to ensuring that babies are delivered in Fosston again, and, that no more services are reduced or taken away.

The average residential sewer customer in Fosston discharges 3,600 gallons per month into the sewer and will pay an additional \$1.54 per month for sewer service. The average commercial customer uses 13,800 gallons per month and will pay an additional \$7.93 per month on their sewer bill.

The Public Utilities Commission and City Council remain committed to improving the water and sanitary sewer services to the residents of Fosston.

# NEWS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Every winter, Law Enforcement receives numerous complaints from concerned citizens about pets being left outside in the cold weather. We have had an exceptionally warm winter but there is no doubt winter temperatures will return. Your furry friends are susceptible to the cold just like we are so make sure to have adequate warm shelter for your pet and put them inside when the frigid temperatures return.



By ordinance, your pets do need to be registered with the city and you do need to provide up to date shot records. Also please note, your pets need to be always secured on your own property and cannot leave your property without being on a leash. We are a pet friendly city, but no one wants their neighbor's dog running in their yard and leaving unwelcome deposits.

Our city street crews do a great job of keeping our streets plowed and safe. You can help out by not parking on the street after a snow event. By ordinance, vehicles need to be moved every 24 hours and need to be off the city street after a snowfall for plowing purposes. Vehicles and trailers left on the street in violation of our city ordinance may be ticketed or towed. Also did you know that it is a violation of the city ordinance to push snow from your driveways or sidewalks into the city street?

Did you know the police department does Vacation House Watch? Whether you are going on vacation or just going to be away from your property for a few days let the Fosston Police Department know and we will watch over the property until you return. This allows you to have peace of mind while enjoying time away!

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead*

**MARCH 9**  
2024

DOORS OPEN - 7PM  
CONCERT - 8PM  
at Ventures in Fosston

**Johnny  
Holm  
Band**  
COMMUNITY CONCERT

Tickets  
available at  
City Hall

**GET YOUR  
TICKETS TODAY!**

**\$30** IN ADVANCE

**\$40** AT DOOR  
(if available)

*a limited number of tickets will  
be sold and can be purchased at:*

**Ventures, Burggraf's Ace,  
Nords Pharmacy & Gifts, and  
with Jake Vossler at Essentia**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE:

**FIRST CARE  
FOUNDATION**

*"Providing solid ground for our health care future"*

### Coming Events:

- City Council—Tuesday, February 20 7pm
- Presidents Day—Monday, February 19. City departments closed.
- Community Concert - Saturday, March 9

### City Departments Closed Presidents' Day

City departments will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of Presidents' Day. There will be no garbage pickup Monday. Monday garbage will be picked up on Tuesday along with Tuesday's garbage.

Thank you