



Town Tidbits

Water and Sewer Rate Increases on Hold for Now

As part of the update to the Comprehensive Plan, the Town will be conducting a Water/ Wastewater Capacity Study and a Utility Rate Study. Water and wastewater capacity is the amount of water and wastewater that a treatment system can safely process and transport, and a utility rate study helps to determine the rates that should be charged to customers.

Currently, the Town operates a water treatment facility that provides water to all residences and businesses in the Town. Raw water at the Collbran Water Treatment Plant is treated with conventional filtration and then chlorinated and sent into the distribution system. The treated water is stored in 3 storage tanks with a total capacity of 750,000 gallons.

The Town also operates one wastewater facility, an aerated lagoon system located northwest of town on the north side of Plateau Creek. System facilities include 2 aerated lagoons and a mechanical lift station that serves the Plateau Valley School.

Collbran strives to offer well maintained water and sewer facilities that provide high-quality potable water and properly treated wastewater to our community. To ensure long-term financial viability, we conduct regular reviews and updates of utility fees and capital improvements. This type of planning promotes sustainable utility systems, protection of public health, and preservation of environmental quality.

Properly structured rates help ensure adequate funding for operations and capital facilities based upon current and projected future needs. We keep revenues and costs of operations of water and wastewater functions in separate "Enterprise" funds and work to make sure that the funds generate enough revenues to cover operations and future infrastructure requirements. We do not combine the water and wastewater revenues and costs with other Town activities like Town Hall administration, street and park maintenance or police operations.

Our last utility rate study was completed in 2019. As federal and state regulations change and construction costs increase, an updated rate study will help to recommend future water and sewer rates, and so the Board of Trustees has voted to not increase water or sewer rates until the updated rate study is complete. Once they are complete, the capacity study and rate study will be posted on the Town website and the Board of Trustees may consider rate changes at that time.