

Good Afternoon

My name is Tom Benoit, and I live in P.X.
I am here to voice opposition to the proposed
sewer services charge rate adjustments/increases.
I am requesting the board to cast a no vote
to these proposed increases.

But first, as an aside, but ~~as~~ a very important
component to the rate increase, is the manner
in which we the public are notified.

The notice that we were sent it am sure
falls within the statutory guidelines for serving
notice. Each of us were sent a mailer, notifying
us of the proposed increase;

← But I know in speaking to some of my
neighbors, they never noticed or received said
notice. The notice comes in a "garden variety"
kind of a way. Not much to really call our attention
to this in any way different to so ~~many~~ ^{many} of our
junk mailers that we receive. So that is
first.

2nd ~~what~~ and crucial is the fact that to
reject the increases, the District would be required
to reject the proposal if 50% + 1 protest in
writing! Maybe to accept the proposal the district
should require 50% + 1 to accept the proposal.

But new to the proposal itself. This increase represents a great burden to many in our district. It affects all of us, landowners, renters, hard working struggling families and struggling seniors on fixed incomes. All of the above are already burdened with higher costs of housing, rentals, and huge increases in home owners insurance policies.

This ^{proposal is on top of} increase in our already overpriced sewer service. Many communities pay 40-45¢/month in sewer cost, we are paying approximately 85¢/month now.

The proposed rate increase for O&M in Lake Wildwood is 67% by Fiscal year 2025. In the Lake of the Pines the increase is almost 100%. In Riv. the O&M increase is 35%. The Capital Increase^{in Riv.} is almost 150%.

Show me where I could make those kind of increases on my money in 2025, and I'll do that all day.

It doesn't seem to me that these increases stay above or below the inflationary guidelines as prescribed by law.

Please, for all of us, vote no on this ~~proposed~~ proposed increase.

THANK YOU -