



Twisp Utility Rates

2020

Water and Sewer rates increase in January

by Andrew Denham

Water 7.8%

The second phase of four water main improvement projects was completed in 2019. The total project is estimated to cost \$2,592,000 and is being funded by USDA with a grant/loan (42%, 58% respectively). These projects are necessary to improve the delivery, dependability and fire flow of the most deficient portion of the Town's aging water system. Water utility rates in 2020 will be increased by 7.8%. The majority of this rate increase goes to fulfil our loan funding obligation. Only 1.5% of the increase is scheduled towards O&M.

Investing in reliable fire flow is a high priority for the Town. Undersized 80-year-old water mains only provide 20% of the necessary fire flow in some areas of town. Our plan is to provide adequate fire flow to all areas of town by the end of 2021. With wildfires, this is a major safety issue.

The 2020 residential base **water** rate will be **\$57.00/month** plus tax, an increase of \$4.12/month

REMINDER* Winterize your pipes to prevent freeze ups. During very cold weather, think about running a small amount of water, if necessary.

Sewer 1.5%

The Town is currently seeking funding for our sanitary sewer system and wastewater treatment plant improvements. We recently submitted an application for a funding package through the Department of Ecology for \$3,455,000 to improve the sanitary sewer system and biosolids treatment. If funded, these projects will take place over the next several years and are necessary to improve capacity and reliability at the WWTP and repair damaged sewers. A proactive approach is critical to prevent sewer backups and overflows that cause serious health concerns and potential action by the Department of Ecology. As always, we work diligently to develop funding strategies that maximize grant contributions and minimize rate impacts. *A recent survey of utility rates in the Okanogan County region showed Twisp's utility rates are near average.*

The 2020 residential base **sewer** rate will be **\$57.24/month** plus tax, an increase of \$.85/month.

The total utility increase for 2020 is \$4.97/month for Water and Sewer, which brings the 2020 utility base rate to **\$114.24 plus tax. (\$124.52 with tax)**



Water system improvements

September 2019 Canyon Street Improvement Project, phase two of four water system improvement projects funded by USDA.



Canyon Street sidewalk

September 2019 roadway reconstruct and sidewalk construction funded by TIB & Methow Housing Trust.