

CASTLE DANGER SUBORDINATE SERVICE DISTRICT  
SEWER RATE HEARING  
APRIL 11, 2023

The Annual CDSSD Wastewater Rate Hearing was held on Tuesday, April 11th, 2023, in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road, for the purpose of hearing appeals and setting sewer rates for 2023.

Present: Silver Creek Supervisors: Chuck Voss, Greg Hull, and Scott Krech; Clerk Alison Oftedah!; (by phone) Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson; Wastewater Operator Mike Hoops; and Town Operations and Facilities Manager Jody Reineccius.

Absent: None

Visitors Present: Chris Jaeger

Chairman Voss called the Hearing to order at 6:36 p.m. and asked Wastewater Operator Hoops to present his Annual Report (included below).

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**Wastewater Operations Year End 2022**

During 2022, the district received a total of 8.4921 million gallons of wastewater from its residents and businesses. In addition, 0.6201 million gallons of wastewater was received from wastewater haulers.

Flows from residences and business seem to be stable at this time. There was a re-connection of a previously connected home in the district. Anecdotal evidence suggests that residences are producing less wastewater as more residents are gone in the winter or have moved into assisted living. This is a changing demographic. We look forward to having some new residences built this year but have only one application in hand at this time. We are waiting for finished floor elevations, discharge elevation, and location to determine the best route to take on connection and create an estimate of cost.

Pond capacity was closely looked at this past year. A sonar equipped boat was run over ponds to determine existing capacity for sludge. Currently there is capacity into the future for an indeterminate amount of time. One of the greatest factors in this is how much wastewater is received from haulers. This material does contain a higher percentage of non-organic material than what is received from district users. It contains more grit, more plastic, more latex than what is received via pump. Much of the material comes from vault toilets and holding tanks and has a much higher Biological Oxygen Demand as well as Total Suspended Solids that are organic. We do have a bar screen to prevent larger objects, but at times it is not used.

This trucked in waste is a revenue stream, but at what cost to the district when capacity is reached and there is a need to dredge the ponds? There is a reason other municipal plants don't want it. I think this is an item for Board discussion into the future.

Discharge of treated water from the ponds this past year was 16.9157 million gallons. The ponds were pumped down to a lower level than in past years in spite of rainfall being almost 5" above normal. All water discharged met MPCA Permit requirements.

As more EOne Extreme pumps are installed into the grinder stations, the failure rate goes down. I'm sure that in hindsight EOne would have liked to have had this design 25 years ago. The pump issues over the years cost them future business, as it created problems for utilities.

We still have issues in the #1 Lift Station that have to be corrected, but that is an issue that will be resolved with frost free conditions and warmer temps.

In conclusion, 2022 presented its own challenges and opportunities, as has every past year. Even after 20+ years we are still learning.

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After discussion, motion Hull, second Voss to accept the Operator's Report as presented.

The Board then reviewed finances as of year-end. The Cash Control Report showed that the Sewer Enterprise fund held \$88,175.07, and the Sewer Enterprise Replacement fund held \$97,232.90, although it was noted that a \$15,000 repair done late last year was paid in this year. They also viewed the Rate Calculation spreadsheet. A \$170,000 budget has been set for this year and the system was run for \$154,040 last year. Motion Hull, second Krech to accept the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposed rates were then viewed and considered. No rate increase was proposed for residential accounts. The Board reviewed the rate changes for Commercial accounts that were based on metered flow. Chairman Voss

asked for any concerns or appeals from system users. Chris Jaeger said he had no real concerns on his rate, but had a request - would meter readings be done quarterly? The Board confirmed that they would be. After hearing no other appeals or questions, motion Hull, second Voss to adopt Resolution 2023-3 (included below) setting sewer rates. Resolution 2023-3 carried unanimously upon roll-call vote as follows: Voss: Yea; Krech: Yea; Hull: Yea; Absent: none; Abstaining: none.

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**RESOLUTION 2023-3**  
**2023 SEWER RATES IN THE CASTLE DANGER SEWER DISTRICT**

**Residential Monthly Rates**

Sewer: \$55.00/month  
Auxiliary habitable structures: \$17.00/month

**Commercial Monthly Rates**

Rustic Inn - \$1,057/month  
Gooseberry Motel - \$231/month  
Grand Superior Lodge - \$5921/month  
Gooseberry Cabins - \$ 289/month  
Castle Haven - \$286/month  
Gooseberry Falls State Park - \$1707/month

1. Late payment fee:  
**Residential** – 1.50% per month on outstanding balance  
Late fees will be assessed 45 days from billing date.  
Shut off notice will be issued at 90 days from billing date unless board votes to suspend it.  
**Commercial** – 1.50% per month on outstanding balances  
Late fees will be assessed at 30 and 60 days from billing date.  
Shut off notice will be issued at 90 days from billing date unless the board votes to suspend it.
2. Account transfer fee: \$25.00
3. Sewer turn-on fee: \$100.00
4. Sewer shut-off fee: \$100.00
5. New Account Application Fee: \$550
6. Residential Access Fee: \$8,000.00
7. Commercial Access Fee: \$6,331.48/100,000 gallons per year
8. Sewage-dumping fee for trucked-in sewage: \$21.00/1000 gallons septage and \$6.00/1000 gallons domestic strength wastewater. Ponds are not open in the winter. If dumping is needed, hauler shall be responsible for providing their own snow removal equipment in order to access the pond site waste.
9. In the event I&I is discovered or identified as coming from a connection, the Board shall have the option of assessing a monthly penalty of \$100.00 until satisfactory repairs are made.

Adopted this 11th day of April 2023.

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Charles Voss

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Gregory Hull

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Scott Krech

ATTEST:

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Alison Oftedahl, Clerk

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There being no further business, the hearing was adjourned at 7:07 p.m. upon motion Hull, second Voss. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk