

**From:** [Streamline](#)  
**To:** [Laural Casey](#)  
**Subject:** New form submission assigned to you: Public Comment  
**Date:** Sunday, June 16, 2024 6:23:33 PM

**External Email – Confirm Sender and Beware of Links and Attachments**

Logo used for headers



## Public Comment

<b>Written Public Comment Webform:</b>	
<b>First Name:</b>	Janis
<b>Last Name:</b>	Betten
<b>Group or Organization Affiliation:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	12975 SE 22nd Ave
<b>Contact Information:</b>	lady.1r1s.1945@gmail.com
<b>Written Comments:</b>	With the increase in cost to begin July 1, which is hitting people hard, how does the \$3 million allotted by the legislature factor into the budget?



June 15<sup>th</sup> 2024,

Oak Lodge Water Service Proposed Budget 2024 – 2025 Public comment for June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

I am writing as a customer who only receives water from the OLWS District so my numbers only reflect my issues with the water rates.

As of June 2022 my base water rate was \$17.87 and water was \$1.20 per ccf at usage of 6 ccf and below.

As of July 2024 my base water rate will be \$25.88 and a water usage rate of \$1.91 per ccf at 5 ccf and below.

**This is a 31% base water rate increase and a 37% water usage rate increase in 24 months.**

With the proposed 24-25 budget the usage of 6 ccf, which has been the standard rate for years will move to 5 and the cost will raise to \$2.40 per ccf earlier than the past.

For reference, these base water rates and usage rates are taken from Page 2 of your posted budget document:

[https://www.oaklodgewaterservices.org/files/1e479ecf4/OLWS+FY25+Proposed+Budget\\_Presentation\\_04-04-2024.pdf](https://www.oaklodgewaterservices.org/files/1e479ecf4/OLWS+FY25+Proposed+Budget_Presentation_04-04-2024.pdf)

During these same two years the Administrative Services group cost, i.e. their Payroll and Benefits has increased from \$2,133,136 to \$2,877,500, an increase of \$744K. The Materials and Services to support these people increased by \$500K. Based on your organization chart these dollars would be spread across a headcount of 17 people. The headcount is taken from page 6 and the costs from page 19 of your posted budget document:

[https://www.oaklodgewaterservices.org/files/68fb7ada0/2024-04\\_Packet\\_Budget+Committee.pdf](https://www.oaklodgewaterservices.org/files/68fb7ada0/2024-04_Packet_Budget+Committee.pdf)

Using 17 people and \$744K Payroll, a \$500K Services figures out to \$44K payroll and \$29K services per each Administrative person over the last two years. **That's \$73K increase for each administrative person over the last two years.** This is a large rate cost increase for an organization who claims to be going to save the customer money.

Of course, I know that this \$1,244M increase is not spread evenly across the group and the top of pyramid is getting a lot more with the bottom a lot less. Be it as it may, this is a rather large cost increase. I also have concerns with the headcount of the administrative group (17) as compared to the number of workers at 29. I see basically 3 supervisors with 18 reports. This means 1 supervisor per 6 workers at the 'crew' level, this ratio is rather low.

I realize that the \$6M above is a small number compared to the overall budget of \$60M of which is mostly capital dollars. However, reading through many of the capital projects I see statements like 'This project will reduce maintenance for the plant staff.' or 'Refurbishing equipment will decrease staff maintenance time and increase plant efficiency.' Nowhere do I see any headcount reduction forecasting that would go along with these implied statements.

Many of the capital projects seem to be justified by making changes 'that might prevent' something 'or be more efficient'. Looking at future year's capital forecasting I see more very large dollar amounts being budgeted. Are all these capital projects really needed? They appear to be the cause for a large portion of our rate increases. Are we to expect these continued same type of rate increases?

I go through the above because of the promises made when the 'Board of Directors' campaigned just a short while ago for combined Water Services and the Wastewater Services that would bring 'savings by removing overhead and gaining efficiencies of scale.' I am not sure we are seeing this.

The continued double digit percentage increased service rate charges do not reflect your promises and I also question the very high pay benefits of the OLWS district administrative group along with the ratio of the number of workers compared to the number of administrative personnel.

Quality water, good maintenance, capital improvement, good planning and quality people are important to the success of OLWS. I just wonder if the cost to the ratepayer is also being weighed as an equal part of the whole plan.

I believe that there needs to be a change in direction of OLWS that more accurately reflects the financial needs of the customer and honors the implied cost savings that were made when the campaigning for this combined district happened.

Thank You,

Bill Mason  
Unincorporated Clackamas County

**From:** [Streamline](#)  
**To:** [Laural Casey](#)  
**Subject:** New form submission assigned to you: Public Comment  
**Date:** Saturday, June 15, 2024 1:15:58 PM

**External Email – Confirm Sender and Beware of Links and Attachments**

Logo used for headers



## Public Comment

<b>Written Public Comment Webform:</b>	
<b>First Name:</b>	Carol
<b>Last Name:</b>	Morgan
<b>Group or Organization Affiliation:</b>	Citizen
<b>Address:</b>	17539 SE Walta Vista Drive 97267
<b>Contact Information:</b>	carolmorgan927@gmail.com
	<p>The recent proposed rate increases combined with last year's increase equates to a 40% increase in rates in less than two years. I recall that in 2022 the Directors and specifically Director Van loo rejected a proposed rate increase from the Budget Committee of less than 4% because of the impact of COVID to the economy.</p>

**Written  
Comments:**

All one has to do is look at the current inflationary numbers to see its impact to households in this community. If this increase is warranted the Board should look at the overall management to identify where the ball was dropped on not keeping up with Capital improvements until a crisis occurs. People on fixed incomes are adversely impacted by exorbitant utility increases, brings to mind the saying “ a death by a thousand cuts”. Going to monthly billing masks the amount of increase, I ask the Board to take a hard look of what is truly required and look for internal efficiencies. Thank you.

[Reply / Manage](#)

**From:** [Streamline](#)  
**To:** [Laural Casey](#)  
**Subject:** New form submission assigned to you: Public Comment  
**Date:** Monday, June 17, 2024 12:49:10 PM

**External Email – Confirm Sender and Beware of Links and Attachments**

Logo used for headers



## Public Comment

<b>Written Public Comment Webform:</b>	
<b>First Name:</b>	Phillip
<b>Last Name:</b>	Obrist
<b>Group or Organization Affiliation:</b>	Glen Lakes Neighborhood
<b>Address:</b>	6870 Angus Way, Gladstone, OR 97027
<b>Contact Information:</b>	503-656-7124
	On behalf of the 72 percent of the residents of the Glen Oaks NA, (Outfield Rd, Angus Way, Dierykx CT , and Columbia Ave, I am requesting that the Board and associated entities way heavy the tremendous burden of years of constant Storm Water runoff fee increases have had on our families!! Along with the added

**Written  
Comments:**

increases of property taxes, general inflation have had on middle class working families and us Seniors on fixed incomes, we are barely able to afford even holding on to our homes! Many have already been forced to move!! Our Water/Sewer/Rain water bills have nearly or actually doubled in the past 6 years!!! We are now paying per month what used to be a Bi-Monthly amount. The Low income programs for families and Seniors set up by the CITY OF GLADSTONE are too hard to qualify for!! We would hope you would take these facts into consideration for determining any further over burdensome fee increases. Thank you, Phillip Obrist, spokesperson for the Glen Oaks neighborhood

[Reply / Manage](#)

**From:** [Streamline](#)  
**To:** [Laural Casey](#)  
**Subject:** New form submission assigned to you: Public Comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024 12:18:49 PM

**External Email – Confirm Sender and Beware of Links and Attachments**

Logo used for headers



## Public Comment

<b>Written Public Comment Webform:</b>	
<b>First Name:</b>	JASON
<b>Last Name:</b>	Rappaport
<b>Group or Organization Affiliation:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	17331 SE RIVER RD, 97267
<b>Contact Information:</b>	jsrappaport@hotmail.com
<b>Written Comments:</b>	Due to the already massive increase in the cost of living this will put extra burden on households that are already financially strapped. We are against increased water costs, please keep them where they are. Thank you