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Village of Genoa Utility Customer,

Per Ordinance 78-2023, the Village of Genoa has raised water rates effective January 1, 2024. The ordinance increases water rates 5% in 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027. This is due to two main factors: debt payments for the 2024 Water Towers Improvements Project, and rate increases from the City of Oregon.

This winter, the Village will bid out the 2024 Water Towers Improvements Project, which will repair and repaint the Village's two water towers. This project is estimated to cost \$1.4 million, with annual debt payments projected to be as high as \$80,000 annually.

As you may have read in the newspaper recently, we have been informed by the City of Oregon of rate increases due primarily to increased costs for treatment chemicals. These cost increases are expected to cost the Village an additional \$130,000 annually.

Per Ordinance 79-2023, the Village of Genoa has raised metered sewer rates effective January 1, 2024. The ordinance increases metered sewer rates 15% in 2024, and 3% in 2025, 2026, and 2027. Additionally, this ordinance removes some of the discounts for large sewer users, as we try to alleviate financial hardships on rates for residential users.

These cost increases are necessary to cover debt payments for the generational overhaul of the sanitary sewer system that has been underway since 2021. In 2021, the Village built a \$2.1 million filtration house to mitigate phosphorous pollution at the wastewater treatment lagoons. After that, the Village rebuilt the main pump station which pumps the entire system to the wastewater treatment lagoons. Currently, a \$1.7 million project to rebuild the peripheral pump stations (which will be funded by a future rate increase or an infrastructure fee on peripheral users of these pump stations, to be determined by a coming rate study).

Thankfully, even with the sewer rate increases, our sewer rates remain among the lowest in the area.

Thomas E. Bergman
Village Administrator, Village of Genoa