



## **January 2017**

### **Newsletter**

#### **District Services**

Over the past several years the District Staff of the South Sheridan Water and Sanitary Sewer District (SSWSSD) has been receiving e-mails and telephone calls asking what services the District provides. The services that the District provides include the maintenance of water pipelines, fire hydrants, and valves. The District does not provide treated water, but instead relies on Denver Water to treat and distribute water to South Sheridan's customers. The District also provides maintenance of sanitary sewer pipelines and pays the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District, through an intergovernmental agreement, to treat the District's wastewater. Additionally, the District is responsible to pay two loan payments that the District obtained in 2013. The money from these loans was used to install new water valves and hydrants, and rehabilitate the District's sewer pipelines by relining them. The loans that the District received were at a 1% interest rate. Construction was completed in 2015 before construction costs escalated. It is important to note that the one service the District does not provide is Storm Drainage. All Storm Drainage maintenance is provided by the City of Lakewood.

#### **2016 Election**

In November 2016 the District asked voters if they could retain and spend approximately \$25,000 in excess property tax revenue that was collected in 2016. This revenue was collected as a result of increases in property values that exceeded what was allowed under Colorado Statute. If the ballot initiative had passed, the District would have had increased flexibility in how the money collected is spent and would have been able to use property tax revenue to offset increases in utility operating costs. Given the fact that the ballot initiative did not pass, each residential home will see a reduction in their 2017 property taxes collected by the District of about \$42.00.

#### **District Finances**

The District receives money from two sources. The first source of revenue is from a property tax of 5.748 mills. Revenue from property taxes is used to pay the District's Administrative costs such as management, accounting, communications, and insurance. The other revenue stream used to fund District operations comes from utility service fees.

This money is used to pay for system maintenance, wastewater treatment, and loan payments. Approximately 91.5% of the money collected from utility bills that the District sends to customer's, is used to pay wastewater treatment costs and loan payments. These expenses are fixed expenses, which the District has no control over. The remaining 8.5% of the revenue is used to pay for actual operations such as pipeline maintenance, billing costs, and engineering costs. In 2017, the District will be responsible to pay \$322,208 for Wastewater Treatment. In 2016 the District paid \$186, 619. This \$135,589 increase in treatment costs has significantly affected the District's projected cash flow; however, this cost increase was completely out of the Board's control.

## Utility Billing

Beginning in January 2017 each residential customer will begin receiving a bi monthly Utility Bill in the amount of \$80.00. In the past the District has sent out Utility bills for water and wastewater service on a quarterly basis, however, the District thought that it would be beneficial to our customer base to pay for water and wastewater service every other month as opposed to quarterly. You will also notice that your bill will have three line items on it instead of one. These three lines will more clearly inform you of exactly what you are paying for and will contain the following information:

Water System Maintenance and Loan Payment	\$18.88
Sanitary Sewer Maintenance and Loan Payment	\$15.88
Wastewater Treatment	<u>\$45.24</u>
<b>Total Due</b>	<b>\$80.00</b>

## New District Website

The South Sheridan Water and Sanitary Sewer District has a new website. The website can be accessed at [www.sswssd.com](http://www.sswssd.com) . This website will provide you with important information about the District including Board meeting schedules, agendas and minutes, newsletters, District budgets and audits, and other information we hope you will find interesting. Also, a link will be provided on the District's website that will re-direct you to Community Resource Services of Colorado (CRS) to allow you to continue making utility bill payments through the CRS website and portal. Payments can still be made by directly accessing the CRS website as you do now. Please check our new website and let us know your thoughts and how we can make the website more useful.