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2013 water budget. "Is it because of the water rates increase?" Berreth disagreed, saying they've sold more water in 11 months of 2012 than in all of 2011. "This \$819,000 revenue projected (about 30 percent higher than 2012) is off the current rate as we have it now.... This (2013 budget) doesn't reflect the rate increase.... People are not cutting back. They are watering to keep things alive," Berreth said.

Resident Carolyn Bresnahan asked, "But if we're all encouraging everyone to conserve water ... then you're not going to be able to count on that money." "Right," said Berreth. "It's the best educated guess we can do."

Higher water base rates and tiered use rates will begin in January, with the extra

hoped-for revenue going for improvements to "infrastructure and capital improvement, electricity, chemicals, testing, etc., which is increasing," Berreth said. Base rates will increase 3 percent, from \$51.02 per address each month to \$52.21. She said, "By ordinance, in May, we will look at this again and see where we're at (for revenue).... We're not trying to get a huge surplus, but we're just trying to see that everybody's taken care of."

The filter plant loan payment will remain at \$11.51 per month (included in base rate), "because it's tied to the loan application by the state," Berreth said. Fire Trustee Rich Kuehster said, "Now we need to chip away at it instead of adding to it.... Everybody in town (except those with a well) are paying \$11.51 each month to help pay for that loan." The monthly base rate also includes \$3.59 for capital projects. (See <http://www.ocn.me/v12n12.htm#pltc>).

The current two-tiered water rate structure will be replaced with a three-tiered structure:

- For the first 0-15,000 gallons, users will be charged \$3.70 per 1,000 gallons.
- At the next level, 15,001-20,000 gallons, users will

be charged \$6.05 per 1,000 gallons over 15,000 gallons.

- People will be charged the most as they reach the highest tier; starting at 20,001 gallons, users will be charged \$7 per 1,000 gallons over 20,000.

"Why can't we leave the lower tier rates the same as a reward for people that aren't using as much water?" Davis asked. Berreth said, "We wouldn't generate (the) revenue that it's costing us.... It's costing (Water Supervisor) Steve (Orcutt) so much more to produce that much water" with the new filter plant. McDonald added, "And not only that, when you're on the well, the wells are much more expensive, and if there's not much moisture, we're going to be using the heck out of the wells this summer."

Water Trustee Mike Maddox said, "There's more to (the capital improvement). One 900-foot stretch of line ... had no hydrants, but we're supposed to have a hydrant every 500 feet.... It costs \$2,000 each for a hydrant. It costs \$32 for every foot of pipe that needs to be repaired.... In the long run it's going to be for the benefit of citizens not to lose water into the ground (through leaks), and we'll have a hydrant every 500 feet for the protection of the residents."

Resident Dave Bresnahan said, "Two-thirds of the pipes have been repaired, but it's not two-thirds of the dollar outlay.... You have a third left (to replace), but those are the big dollar items. So that's why this dramatic increase from a budget of \$30,000 to a budget of \$220,000."

"Correct," Berreth said, "The most costly repairs ... over on Brookridge (for example) ... that's going to cost \$60,000, maybe \$70,000. That will eat up a lot of that \$105,000 for capital improvements. Repairs are coming up here on the hill so those people won't be out of water if those lines close up and we don't have the money to fix it.... I don't want to have a water truck (like Palmer Lake had in the '70s).... I would hate to go after another bond or mill levy ... in order to fix the water lines...."

**Note:** This discussion was only about a list of the most corroded, aging water distribution pipes, not replacement of all town water pipes.

McDonald added, "A water person at Steve (Orcutt)'s caliber, which is the top, starts out at about \$105,000. He's nowhere near \$105,000.... He got offered a good job and turned it down because he loves this town.... He's one of the biggest blessings in this town."

Several residents and trustees wondered about the possibility of fining residents who "go way over" on their water use. Berreth said, "We can't fine people" because town water meters can only be read monthly, and people can't be fined without notification of their real-time water use first.

For perspective, Maddox said, "In Woodmoor, their (base)

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