



**City of Stanwood**  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 21, 2013**

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### **STANWOOD –UTILITY RATES INCREASE JANUARY 1, 2014**

On Thursday, November 14, the Stanwood City Council approved a 3.5% annual sewer rate increase and continuing the 5% annual water rate increase adopted in January 2011. The increases will become effective January 1, 2014 and will raise the average customer's combined utility bill by \$2.77 per month (\$5.44 per two month billing period).

Following the vote, Mayor White noted, "The recommended budget includes reinstating a 5% increase in water rates through 2019 and initiating a 3.5% increase in sewer rates through 2019." White added, "Increasing utility fees is not usually a popular position. However, the city has cut expenses and staffing during the economic downturn to the point where taxpayer owned assets are beginning to suffer. I am please the city council approved the small annual increases that support the investment to maintain the existing system and serve future development."

Currently Stanwood utility customers pay some of the lowest water and sewer utility rates in the region. The increases are needed to properly fund operations. The funding raised by the rate increases will be used to meet minimum cash reserve targets, maintain tax payer owned assets, meet minimum staffing requirements and limit borrowing.

The rate increases were approved by a four to one vote. Matt McCune voted against the increases. Council Members Pearce and Callaghan were absent from the meeting.

\*\*\* Next\*\*\*

For more information about the proposed rate increase visit the city's website at [http://ci.stanwood.wa.us/page.asp\\_Q\\_navigationid\\_E\\_525](http://ci.stanwood.wa.us/page.asp_Q_navigationid_E_525) or contact Finance Director, Greg Thramer at 360-629-2181.

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