The Utilities Committee for Monroeville's Council met on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, in Council Chambers to discuss John Courtney's recommendations to increase water and sewer rates, and any other utility business that came before them.

Present were Tammy Schlachter, Sue Rogers, Chris Raftery, Tom Gray, and Bonnie Beck.

John's recommendations to increase the water rate by 10% and the sewer rate by 5% were discussed. Bonnie reminded the committee that the third phase of Mr. Courtney's recommendation from 2023, to increase the water rates by 15%, would be effective with the July 1, 2025 utility invoices. After some discussion about customer impact, the committee determined that they will recommend to Council that the increases be staggered so it won't be such a big hit on utility invoices. The new water rate will increase by 5% effective with the December 1, 2025 invoices, and 5% effective with the July 1, 2026 invoices. The 5% sewer rate increase will be effective with the September 1, 2025 utility invoices. Bonnie noted that the water rate resolution can go through three readings since it won't be effective until December, but the sewer rate resolution will need to be passed as an emergency since the billing for September will be calculated in August.

Sue asked why the rates keep having to go up. Discussion ensued about the rising cost of materials, supplies, and chemicals, as well as the EPA mandates that we get for water and sewer line maintenance, repair, or replacement. Bonnie noted that the superintendents are really good about getting the best quotes possible while still purchasing quality supplies. The Village does its due diligence, and all agreed that increasing utility rates is the most difficult aspect of meeting our revenue requirements.

With no further utility matters to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Beck, MMC, Fiscal Officer