

Points to Ponder, August 17, 2015

So much has happened since my last points to ponder. Our wastewater lift stations #1 and #3 are complete and up and running. Lift station #2 is approximately half-way done and should be completed in about two weeks, barring any inclement weather. I want to thank all the citizens residing in homes directly adjacent to the lift stations for their continued patience during this process.

I would like to send a big thank you to all the "helpers" during our boil order advisory. We had several city workers, council members, citizens and teens that helped get all the notices typed, copied, and delivered to each home, notifying them of the boil order. Because of all the efforts, the process went very smoothly. Also, a big thank you to all our citizens for being so patient during the process of waiting for the water to recede and getting the wells cleaned and sterilized. The process certainly took longer than any of us anticipated. The City is also thankful to the company in Nebraska that donated bottled water and the tanker filled with potable water and to Ozawkie Fire District #7 for delivering the water to homes.

Our phase II project is moving into its final stages. At the August City Council meeting the contract for BG Engineers was signed, as well as loan papers from USDA. We all are aware that to pay for this project, our sewer rates are going to increase. At the August council meeting, I presented attendees with a sheet with options for rate increases. Due to votes from citizens, below is the scale in which they will increase. Rates will increase October 1st, 2015, which will reflect in your November bill.

City of Ozawkie

<u>Every 4 months</u>	base	increase	total per month
October 1, 2015	28.50	9.75	\$38.25
February 1, 2016	38.25	9.75	\$48.00
June 1, 2016	48.00	9.75	\$57.75
October 1, 2016	57.75	9.75	\$67.50

Outside City Limits - Keystone School

<u>Every 4 months</u>	base	increase	total per month
October 1, 2015	50.00	9.75	\$59.75
February 1, 2016	59.75	9.75	\$69.50
June 1, 2016	69.50	9.75	\$79.25
October 1, 2016	79.25	9.75	\$89.00

Outside City Limits - Residential

<u>Every 4 months</u>	base	increase	total per month
October 1, 2015	38.50	9.75	\$48.25
February 1, 2016	48.25	9.75	\$58.00
June 1, 2016	58.00	9.75	\$67.75
October 1, 2016	67.75	9.75	\$77.50

Yes, this creates a hardship, yes, the citizens voted for moving forward, yes, we will have a new, improved, wastewater system for our city!! As we all know, if we don't take care of our most unique city, it will fall apart and not be a great place to live!

Councilwoman Nancy Leek