

Commissioners:
Robert Tucker, Chairman
Deborah Duncan
Roy McGregor

South Hopkins Water District

Phone 270-797-5760
Fax 270-797-3800
129 S. Main St. P. O. Box 487
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

October 3, 2022

Ms. Linda Bridwell
Executive Director
Public Service Commission
PO BOX 615
Frankfort, KY 40602

Case No: 2022-00122

Dear Ms. Bridwell:

South Hopkins Water District (SHWD) submits the following comments concerning the Commission Staff Report dated September 23, 2022:

1. The District does not agree with the Staff Report reduction of certain Nonrecurring charges (connection charge, reconnection charge, return payment charge, service charge, and the meter test charge.) Although several of these nonrecurring charges are performed during normal business hours, SHWD is in a rural area covering approximately 30 miles from the furthest point A to point B (covering 250 miles of water line). This distance takes staff time away from other duties and responsibilities since all must be performed on site. Concerning the reduction in return payment charge, the current charge is in line with local businesses.
2. Concerning the Employee Salaries and Wages, SHWD has experienced a high level of turnover due to the low starting salaries. SHWD has adjusted salaries to be in line with local job opportunities. If we reduce salaries, our employees could seek higher paying entry level jobs locally and SHWD would lose experienced employees and have an even higher level of turnover. As you are aware, there is a high level of stress connected with serving the public. SHWD feels employees earn every penny they are paid.
3. SHWD knows that offering 100% paid insurance such as health, life, dental and vision is a crucial benefit to insure SHWD is retaining experienced, qualified employees to serve our communities. Being such a small public service entity, time required to interview, employee, and train new workers consumes staff time as well as money. If SHWD reduced benefits, the District would lose valuable employees and insure the costs related to training new employees. SHWD feels asking employees to pay 21% of medical insurance and 60% of dental insurance is unrealistic.

The District concurs with the remainder of findings presented in the staff report, and even though we find the rate increase minimal, SHWD does not wish to contest the rate adjustment in this case.

If any other information is needed, please contact the office. Thank you.



Deborah Duncan
Commisisoner

South Hopkins Water District is an equal opportunity provider and employer