



# February 2023 Newsletter

February 13, 2023

**Protect people, pipes, pets and plants when temperatures drop below freezing!**

## Board Approves Rate Increase Effective March 1, 2023

In the January 26, 2023, regular Board of Directors’ meeting, the Board voted unanimously to increase the base rate for sewer beginning March 1, 2023. Customers will see the increase on their March 2023 statement. Base rate will increase from \$27.00 to \$33.00 for the first 2,000 gallons of water used. The rate increase is needed to bridge some of the gap between sewer system operations and maintenance costs and revenue it generates.

One other increase in rates is for customers whose water has been disconnected by the District or its representative for

any reason and requests the water be turned on after regular business hours, weekends or holidays. The fee has changed from \$100 to \$300 for after-hours, weekends and holidays.

The Board also agreed to reduce reconnect fees for customers who request turn-off during a Board declared weather emergency. Disconnections and reconnection must be done during regular business hours to receive the reduced reconnect fee of \$50.

The complete rate order can be found after March 1, 2023, on the District’s website [tcwcid-pv.org](http://tcwcid-pv.org).

## 2022 - A Year In Review

Inframark reported an extremely busy 2022 in maintenance and operations. The company is responsible for maintaining and operating the water treatment plants (WTP), wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), water intake barge, distribution and collection lines, service lines and three sewer lift stations throughout the District. Additionally, monthly, quarterly, and yearly compliance for TCEQ and other organizations were completed.

For the second year in a row temperatures dropped below freezing for a couple of days in February. Inframark housed an employee on-site to oversee operations during the freezing temperatures. Only two minor issues arose during that freeze which were immediately addressed.

Then in December, temperatures plummeted below freezing again for over a 24-hour period. Minimal damage was caused in the District’s system due to diligence in winterizing. Lessons were learned from the 2021 record-breaking freeze.

Stage 1 water restriction signs were placed throughout the District in early June as lake levels continue to drop.

Early in the year, Inframark replaced a hydrant damaged by a car hitting it. Throughout the year, all hydrants were worked, meaning valves were opened and closed. Inframark recorded all deficiencies and have begun the process of repairing hydrants. The District has 69 hydrants. Fifteen leaking hydrants have been repaired so far and more are scheduled for repairs in 2023.

A spring storm damaged the fence around the pond at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Inframark employees removed the limb from the golf course in record time.

The ground storage tank was patched twice. Once from the outside and then from the inside. The tank is slated for replacement as one of the bond projects.

Aging facilities continue to create problems. One of the two backwash tanks at the Water Treatment Plant started leaking. After it was drained it was discovered the bottom was rusted out and needed replacing. The tank had to be taken off-line. Inframark began investigating repairs and alternatives

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for replacing the two old tanks.

The zebra mussel mitigation project was started and completed during 2022. Chemical feed lines were added from the WTP to the raw water pump inlets in the lake. The project took several months to complete.

Two new service lines were added from the upper pressure plane to homes on the lower plane to increase the customer's water pressure to above the minimum required.

The District contracted with a paving company to repair streets that were damaged when adding water and sewer taps for new home construction.

Early in 2022 either an algae bloom or duck weed invaded the effluent pond and caused problems in the golf course's irrigation system. The Board of Directors approved money to help clean golf course sprinkler heads and keep their lines cleared. The problem was alleviated when the weather warmed up and the vegetation died.

A blockage in the main sewer lines on Lakeland Drive plagued customers for a couple of weeks. A frac tank was set up and sewage was re-routed into that until the Inframark team could figure out and solve the problem. A new valve and two 3-inch cleanouts were added on that street.

During construction a main sewer line was broken. The contractor took responsibility for the damages and repairs of the line.

Inframark also completed a survey of all the sewer valves identifying seven valves that needed repairs.

Other work completed by Inframark, but not limited to were:

- Investigating three possible wastewater leaks for customers.
- Investigating one possible water leak for a customer.
- Repairing nine water leaks and four wastewater leaks in the District's system.
- Installing 31 water taps and 18 wastewater taps.
- Transferring ownership on 134 properties.
- Billing an average of 765 accounts per month.
- Winterizing District facilities.

- Flushing fire hydrants monthly.
- Replacing 50 failed customer registers.
- Performed 31 customer service inspections (CSI) required by TCEQ.
- Delivering 199 door tags for delinquent accounts.
- Attended all Board meetings, recording and writing minutes, and kept in contact with the Board of Directors for large or emergency problems.
- Attended committee meetings and coordinated with engineers, attorneys and accountants for the District.
- Producing a monthly newsletter and sent out alerts through the IRIS system to keep customer's informed.

The District Board of Directors saw several transitions throughout the year. Long-time Board member and President, Fred Marshall, resigned from the Board in April and moved out of the District. Mark Villemarette was appointed to the Board to fill the vacant seat. Then another long-time director, Barry Pasarew, opted not to run for re-election. Another Board member, Chris Lippe, also did not run for re-election. So in November three new Board members were sworn into office. Mark Villemarette remained on the Board and was joined by new members Steve Tabaska and Curtis Webber. Director Tabaska was elected President of the Board.

The Board approved a rate increase for both water and wastewater base prices. Both were increased to \$27.00 for the first 2,000 gallons use. These went into effect in May 2022.

The Board also made multiple decisions and directly worked projects for improvements within the District outside of the scope of work Inframark provides.

A project to control rainwater run-off from the WTP was initiated. It is intended to stop run-off from reaching the street and to properly control run-off around the WTP building foundation. These measures should also direct inadvertent water overflows directly into the ditch before reaching the street.

The water intake barge was repositioned and a heavier anchor was attached after changing lake levels and winds overcame the original anchor allowing the barge outside its (Continued on page 3)



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easement. Chapman Marine was contracted to maintain the mooring system as needed to keep the barge in its proper location.

The Board's engineering/design committee worked throughout 2022 with Trihydro, engineers for the District, on the design of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant. Construction should begin later this year.

An Emergency Preparedness Plan was developed by Trihydro and approved in February by the Board for submission to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)

The District received money through the Village of Point Venture from the Coronavirus State and Federal Fiscal Recovery Funds. The Board decided to use the money to add a back-up generator at the WTP. Bids were accepted and approved in 2022. Construction will begin in 2023.

The Board directly managed a SCADA computer system upgrade at the WTP by Trac-N-Trol which included protection from cyber attacks and a more reliable system to automatically call plant operators when a problem is detected by the water plant computer.

The Board research, identified, and funded the purchase of alarm transmitters (automatic dialers) for the District's three remote lift stations. These devices will detect alarm/trouble signals and automatically call operators to investigate and correct problems.

Security cameras at the District office and WTP were updated.

The budget and tax rate were approved in September by unanimous vote. The District's new current tax rate is \$0.70/\$100 property value. Allocated for maintenance and operations was \$0.3628 and for debt services was \$0.3372. This rate is down from 2021 rate of \$0.7409/\$100 value.

# REMINDER



# NO GRINDER

**Customers are reminded that without a power supply, grinder pumps will not work.**

**Please use water sparingly to avoid potential overflows of your system into your yard.**