

# DONALA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

(719) 488-3603

[www.donalawater.org](http://www.donalawater.org)

1st QUARTER 2021

## 2021 Rates

The District conducts a cost-of-service analysis biannually to set system rate levels to recover costs for required upgrades to the system that will be needed in the future. The Board has discussed upcoming upgrades and has determined a 3% rate increase for both water and sewer fixed rates, as well as the tiered usage rates, will gradually build toward our future costs.

The monthly Water Service fee will increase from \$27.00 to \$27.81 and the monthly Sewer Service fee will increase from \$36.75 to \$37.85.

Tier	Gallons	2020 Rate per 1000	3% Increase	2021 Rate per 1000
1	0-10,000	<b>\$7.11</b>	0.21	<b>\$7.32</b>
2	10,001-20,000	<b>\$11.83</b>	0.35	<b>\$12.18</b>
3	20,001-30,000	<b>\$15.80</b>	0.47	<b>\$16.27</b>
4	30,001-40,000	<b>\$23.71</b>	0.71	<b>\$24.42</b>
5	40,001-50,000	<b>\$31.62</b>	0.95	<b>\$32.57</b>
6	50,001 and above	<b>\$39.52</b>	1.19	<b>\$40.71</b>

## New Meters

Included with the approval of the 2021 Budget is the replacement of all brass meters in the District and upgrading the original e-meters to the cellular endpoint. The project should start early in 2021 and the contractor, Keystone Utility Systems, is anticipating 3 months for completion. The contractor will make contact with those in need of the new equipment and schedule all appointments. A technician will need access to your basement, as this is where your water meter is located. They will turn off your water and remove the old meter, install the new meter, turn the water back on and test for any leaks. Typically, this is a 15-20 minute process, barring any difficulties. Every customer will then be able to open an account at [eyeonwater.com](http://eyeonwater.com). At that site you can view your hourly usage as well as set alerts for leaks or high usage. There is no cost to you to obtain the new equipment. We are very excited to have the entire District on the new meters. This will reduce the time required to read meters each month for billing as well as give you, the customer, the tools to manage and monitor your system.

## Board Vacancy

Current Board Member Dennis Snyder has stepped down. Appointment to fill his vacancy will be conducted at the January 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Directors meeting. Please send your resume to [om@donalawater.com](mailto:om@donalawater.com) if you are interested in filling the position no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>.

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## Refinance of Current Debt

The District had a lump sum payment of approximately \$3 million due in March of 2021 to pay off the Laughlin Water Right debt in addition to other outstanding debt. After thorough investigations we decided to refinance that debt and take advantage of the historically low interest rates. We came in with a AA- bond rating and a Green Rating which is very favorable. We were able to complete the bond issuance in November, which will save the District \$100,000 annually. This annual savings will go towards future purchases of renewable water, upgrades and replacement to your water system to ensure the long-term sustainability and quality delivery of water to you.

## Farewell to Robert Hull

District staff and all the Board are sad to say farewell to Robert Hull. Robert has been with the District for 35 years! His knowledge and leadership are unsurpassed. He plans to travel and see the world, with an emphasis on visiting as many museums as humanly possible. He will be greatly missed and we wish him all the best in his retirement!!

## Welcome 2021!

Well, another year has passed and most of us got through it. It certainly was a trying year for many. We saw several staff changes and made it through the pandemic. All of us wish all of you a very Happy New Year and hope that 2021 brings health and joy to all.

Your General Manager,  
*Jeff Hodge*

Happy New Year!

2021