



# September Newsletter

September 11, 2024

## District Updating Electronic Meter Reading Equipment

Budgeted over the next two years is the replacement of the electronic meter reading equipment for District customers' meters. The primary benefit to customers for this upgrade is early leak detection. This system will send the District notices of any homes that are experiencing constant water flow for more than a few hours.

The process began in early July 2024 when 172 townhome endpoints were retrofitted with the new TeslaSOLO (no relationship to the car company) endpoints and Optical Encoder. RG3 Meter's MIG (Meter Install Group) replaced those registers in the system over a two week period. The townhomes built on pier and beam were earmarked for the first round of these new endpoints. During the hard freeze in 2021, several of the townhome pipes burst causing huge water losses and large customer bills. During that weather event, volunteers were braving the incredibly cold temperatures to try to get to those homes to turn off the meters for the homes

that were impacted.

These new TeslaSOLO water endpoints communicate with the Optical Encoder to capture either 15-minute or hourly (configurable) interval read data and meter status information. The endpoints then send read and endpoint status information over the TeslaNet point to multipoint 450-470 MHz Licensed Private Network to the TeslaMDM Software as a Service (Saas) cloud meter data management application.

The Optical Encoder is designed for use with RG3 positive displacement water meters. The Optical Encoder provides connectivity with RG3 Tesla endpoints.

Along with the townhomes, some homes on Deckhouse, Lakefront, Lakeland, Summit Ridge and Valley Hill Drives were also changed during this first retrofitting. These were chosen to test the farthest reaches of the system for connectivity to the antenna mounted near the District's office.

Now, as the current Tesla 4 endpoints fail, Inframark is replacing those with the new TeslaSOLO endpoints and encoders. Retrofitting is scheduled for all customer meters until almost every service has the new TeslaSolo endpoints and encoders. A few meters that are on the docks cannot be retrofitted due to the nature of their location and how these are covered.

Customers with polymer meter boxes and whose endpoints are retrofitted have a hole drilled in their meter box lid which the transmitter (pictured left) is attached. If you see this in your lid, you will know your meter has been retrofitted. If you need to open the box lid for any reason, please do so carefully, as this transmitter is attached by a wire to the Optical Encoder (also pictured).



**Transmitter is attached to the meter box lid**



**Encoder is attached by a wire to the transmitter**



## Proposed Budget and Tax Rate Update

The Board of Directors for Travis County W.C.I.D. met in regular monthly session on Thursday, August 22, 2024. On the agenda were the District's proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 and 2024 proposed tax rate.

Directors present were President, Steve Tabaska, Secretary Manuel Macias and Assistant Secretaries Mark Villemarette and Curtis Webber. Vice-President Annette Kikta was not in attendance. The Directors in attendance unanimously voted FOR approving the proposed tax rate which is the same tax rate as last year.

Budget for fiscal year 2025 will also be adopted at the September meeting. Any changes to the budget will be made in the September meeting. The proposed budget is below and proposed tax rate is on page 3 of this newsletter.

### Travis County WCID-Point Venture Proposed Budget - General Fund Fiscal Year Ending 9/30/2025

	Fiscal Year 2024		FY-2025
	Budget	Projected 12 Mo.	Proposed Budget
<b>Service Revenues:</b>			
Property Taxes, including penalties (99%)	\$ 1,878,876	\$ 1,917,946	\$ 1,790,320
Service Accounts			
Water Revenue	568,000	586,576	620,000
Sewer Revenue	396,000	431,462	566,400
Service Account Penalty	10,800	15,179	10,800
Grinder Pump Services	-	-	-
Tap/Connection Fees	87,600	43,600	87,600
Interest Income	96,000	136,297	90,500
Miscellaneous	82,644	79,821	82,644
<b>Total Service Revenues</b>	<b>3,119,920</b>	<b>3,210,881</b>	<b>3,248,264</b>
<b>Service Expenditures:</b>			
Current-			
District Facilities			
Water Purchases	48,568	42,665	48,568
Utilities	67,200	62,075	67,200
Telephone	10,800	10,390	10,800
Operations/Management Fees	579,144	587,377	613,200
Repairs & Maintenance			
Water System Maintenance	400,000	345,708	360,000
Water Tap Installation	36,000	22,736	36,000
WW System Maintenance	450,000	359,970	420,000
Sludge Hauling	72,000	50,038	60,000
WW Tap Installation	51,600	17,200	51,600
Meter Fees	-	-	-
General Maintenance	12,000	11,839	12,000
Administrative Services			
Office	18,000	10,260	18,000
Public Notices	5,000	4,994	5,000
Permit Expense	2,000	3,565	2,000
Tax Appraisal/Collection Fees	8,750	10,061	11,000
Insurance	20,000	20,481	25,000
Bank Charges	6,000	5,562	6,000
Director Fees	-	-	38,754
Director Training	500	500	500
Election Expense	5,000	5,000	-
Lobbyist Expense	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	6,000	3,595	6,000
Professional Fees			
Legal Fees	57,000	43,484	54,000
Accounting Fees	51,000	49,544	56,500
Engineering Fees	72,000	67,066	72,000
Audit Fees	15,500	15,500	16,000
Capital Outlay (GIS Mapping)	-	-	65,000
Capital Outlay (EST Engineering)	-	-	300,000
Capital Outlay (Meters)	-	80,000	140,000
Capital Outlay (Fire Hydrants)	-	52,130	75,000
<b>Total Service Expenditures</b>	<b>1,994,062</b>	<b>1,881,739</b>	<b>2,570,122</b>
<b>Excess/(Deficiency) of Revenues over Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 1,125,858</b>	<b>\$ 1,329,141</b>	<b>\$ 678,142</b>
<b>Assumptions:</b>			
-Inframark increase of 3%			
-Assessed Value (Estimate):	\$ 455,288,224		Est. Fund Bal FY'24 \$ 3,600,805
O&M Tax Rate/\$100 of AV	\$ 0.3972		FY'25 Bgt Surplus/(Def.) 678,142
DSF Tax Rate/\$100 of AV	\$ 0.2750		Est Fund Bal FY'25 \$ 4,278,947
Total Tax Rate/\$100 of AV	\$ 0.6722		
New Connections	24		



# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX RATE

Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

District Office, 18606 Venture Drive, Point Venture

The Travis County Water Control and Improvement District – Point Venture will hold a public hearing on a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2024 on September 26, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. The hearing will be held at the District’s Office at 18606 Venture Drive, Point Venture, Texas 78645.

Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the tax rate that is adopted and on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property. The change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in the taxable value of all other property determines the distribution of the tax burden among all property owners.

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

**FOR** the proposal: Steve Tabaska, Manuel Macias, Mark Villemarette, Curtis Webber

**AGAINST** the proposal: None

**PRESENT** and not voting: None

**ABSENT:** Annette Kikta

The following table compares taxes on an average residence homestead in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average residence homestead this year.

	LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.6722/\$100	\$0.6722/\$100
	Adopted	Proposed
Difference in rates per \$100 of value		\$0.00
Percentage increase/decrease in rates (+/-)		0.00%
Average appraised value	\$627,583	\$538,223
General exemptions available (excluding senior citizen’s or disabled person’s exemptions)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Average taxable value	\$419,733	\$430,431
Tax on average residence homestead	\$2,821.45	\$2,893.36
Annual increase/decrease in taxes if proposed tax rate is adopted (+/-)		+\$71.91
and percentage of increase (+/-)		+2.55%

## NOTICE OF TAXPAYER’S RIGHT TO ELECTION TO REDUCE TAX RATE

If the district adopts a combined debt service, operation and maintenance, and contract tax rate that would result in the taxes on the average residence homestead increasing by more than 8.0 percent, an election must be held to determine whether to approve the operation and maintenance tax rate under Section 49.23601, Water Code. An election is not required if the adopted tax rate is less than or equal to the voter-approval tax rate.

**The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.**