

Raymond L. Baldwin · [REDACTED]

March 17, 2024

Clerk for BRDWID  
2297 Starlight Drive  
Happy Jack, AZ 86024

We are commenting on your proposed water base rate increase. Prior to the formation of the BRDWID, our monthly water base bill was about \$36.00. We knew there would be an increase once the District took over the water company, but that raised our monthly bill to approximately \$52.00. If you are granted the rate increase of \$20 per month, our water bill will have doubled in less than a year.

As retirees, we feel this is an excessive increase, especially in light of the increase in almost every other service we receive.

Sincerely,

*Ray Baldwin Donna Baldwin*

Ray & Donna Baldwin  
Owners, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To the Board Members of BRDWID and the community of Happy Jack:

BRDWID will soon launch a deceptive campaign to blame increases on the residents who objected to the purchase and who warned that our water bills would increase and that we would have little control. We warned about the fact that BRDWID never hired an accountant, an independent lawyer, or an expert to evaluate the actual physical plant before agreeing to pay 2.7 million for this company.

We warned that BRDWID had no capital should a major component need repair or replacement. We warned that the members of BRDWID had no experience running a water company and were not wisely spending our money. BRDWID will soon launch a campaign to fool you that the "Intervenors" are to blame. Concerned neighbors, including me, filed an objection to the sale on various valid grounds before the Arizona Corporation Commission. We did not threaten anyone or cause harm to any neighbor or malign anyone. We simply used the legal administrative system to voice our concerns.

The sale issue was between Starlight Water Company and the ACC. We filed an objection and the legal term is "Intervenors." BRDWID decided to unwisely hire an attorney and file their own request to enter the hearing before the ACC. They too were "Intervenors." They foolishly spent our money with an overpriced attorney who relied on Starlight's attorney to tell him what to do. I know this because we obtained, through a Public Records Request, the email correspondence between BRDWID and the lawyers.

Therefore, any money spent on an attorney by BRDWID was their own misguided decision. Starlight Water Company had its own big law firm representing their interests. In fact, they had two lawyers showing up at the hearings, not just one. Starlight did not need BRDWID's amateurish help. Any waste of money on legal bills is only the fault of BRDWID.

BRDWID has falsely stated that they lost revenue in the amount of 1.2 million. BRDWID claims the residents who objected delayed the sale. This is false. We filed an objection. The ACC by law had to have a hearing and decide if the sale should be approved. The judge assigned to the case was lazy. He took 6 months or more to rule on the sale. In fact, BRDWID launched a hateful attack on the judge and sent letters to the Corporation Commissioners complaining of the judge's malfeasance. The ACC Commissioners then scheduled another hearing for a final vote. So, any delay is not attributable to the concerned residents who voiced opposition.

Tom Osterday, the current president, does a big disservice by trying to blame everyone but himself and the Board for their lack of leadership, lack of experience, lack of transparency, lack of honesty, and lack of accountability to us all here in Happy Jack. To Mr. Osterday I say put up the proof that BRDWID lost 1.2 million or shut up.

Starlight Water Company did not turn a profit for the last 5 years they were in business! Starlight Water Company made no improvements to the infrastructure for the last 5 years. How can Mr. Osterday now claim that BRDWID lost 1.2 million in revenue? Hogwash! Don't believe it. Demand the numbers. Demand the accounting. Demand transparency. Demand honesty. Demand board members willing to accept blame for their mistakes. They wanted this job. They wanted this water company. They should now stand up and take responsibility for their own inexperience and failures.

Resident of Starlight Pines Ranchettes

Robert J. Campos

## Re: From the Chairman's Desk - Rationale for Proposed Rate Increase



**From** Ram Dan [REDACTED]  
**To** Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District <info@brdwid.org>  
**Date** 2024-04-03 06:48

We cannot thank you and current board members enough for serving us during this major transition period. Never must we forget the Ritter's initial dream and arduous time, labor and expertise through many years. Others together with them are to be forever thanked that we have been able to keep local ownership of one of the finest water table in the country.

It has not been without challenges and controversy, but in the end the community will be the better for our new non-profit organization and delivery of this wonderful resource.

Thank you! We are very fortunate to have the first proposed rate increase in such a long time. Financial commitments must be met and for the price of a hamburger today, we will be well served toward that goal.

Recipient of great water since the 80's,

Ramón Daniel

---

**From:** Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District <info@brdwid.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 2, 2024 3:04 PM  
**To:** Dr. Daniel Ritter <Dr.DanielRitter@live.com>  
**Subject:** From the Chairman's Desk - Rationale for Proposed Rate Increase

## Fwd: BRWID base rate increase



**From:** Tom Osterday <tom.osterday@brdwid.org>  
**To:** John Ritter <john.ritter@brdwid.org>  
**Date:** 2024-04-03 21:11

John, Here is the email I received from Marty. I sent a reply inviting him to come to the Hearing.

Tom



**Tom Osterday**  
**Chairman of the Board of Directors**  
Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District

*To ensure compliance with the Open Meeting Law, recipients of this message should not forward it to other board members and board members should not reply to this message.*

Please visit the Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District website at <https://www.brdwid.org> for water system information and updates.

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** BRWID base rate increase  
**Date:** 2024-04-02 18:30  
**From:** Martin Hopwood [REDACTED]  
**To:** tom.osterday@brdwid.org

Hi Tom your email about the rate increase rationale explains it all perfectly. I fully understand and fully support the reason for the rate increase. You and all the other members of the Blue Ridge Water improvement district board have my full support. I look forward to paying an additional \$20 a month. It is well worth having a water supply that is under our control. Thank you for all you are doing.  
Marty Hopwood  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

## Fwd: Bluerridge Water District Price Increase



**From** Tom Osterday <tom.osterday@brdwid.org>  
**To** John Ritter <john.ritter@brdwid.org>  
**Date** 2024-04-03 21:14

John,

Here are the comments from Scott Hibben. I responded to Scott's comments and encouraged him to attend the Hearing. He responded with his appreciation for my quick response.

Tom



**Tom Osterday**  
**Chairman of the Board of Directors**  
Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District

*To ensure compliance with the Open Meeting Law, recipients of this message should not forward it to other board members and board members should not reply to this message.*

Please visit the Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District website at <https://www.brdwid.org> for water system information and updates.

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Bluerridge Water District Price Increase  
**Date:** 2024-04-02 15:29  
**From:** Scott Hibben <scott. [REDACTED]>  
**To:** "tom.osterday@brdwid.org" <tom.osterday@brdwid.org>

Tom,

I understand the need for the price increase but do understand where people are coming from. I do not think the BRDWID would ever have been approved to move forward if people understood that our water rates would rise 43% under the new structure. That is where the frustration is coming from.

My question is this: Is this a permanent increase or will the \$20 increase be backed out after 5 years?

Regards,

Scott

## Fwd: 2024-2025 BRDWID Proposed Budget and 5-year Plan



**From** Tom Osterday <tom.osterday@brdwid.org>  
**To** John Ritter <john.ritter@brdwid.org>  
**Date** 2024-04-04 21:26

John,

Attached is the email re: the rate increase from Sue (& Conrad) Davis.

Tom



**Tom Osterday**  
**Chairman of the Board of Directors**  
Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District

*To ensure compliance with the Open Meeting Law, recipients of this message should not forward it to other board members and board members should not reply to this message.*

Please visit the Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District website at <https://www.brdwid.org> for water system information and updates.

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** 2024-2025 BRDWID Proposed Budget and 5-year Plan  
**Date:** 2024-04-04 20:08  
**From:** Sue Davis [REDACTED]  
**To:** Tom Osterday <tom.osterday@brdwid.org>  
**Cc:** Conrad Davis [REDACTED]

Tom Osterday  
Chairman of the Board  
Blue Ridge DWID

Dear Tom,

Congratulations on being elected and agreeing to serve as Chairman of the Blue Ridge DWID Board of Directors.

Conrad and I enjoyed reading your detailed communication about the District's financial progress, culminating in the need to increase the base water rate by \$20.00 a month. We agree that the District must meet WIFA loan obligations, continue planned electronic meter installations, complete projected maintenance expenses, and set the stage for future capital improvements. Your financial plans are examples of responsible governance of a publicly owned utility.

We support increasing the base water rate by \$20.00 a month to meet the District's obligations and secure a stable future.

Sincerely,

Sue and Conrad Davis

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender by e-mail and delete and destroy this message and its attachments.

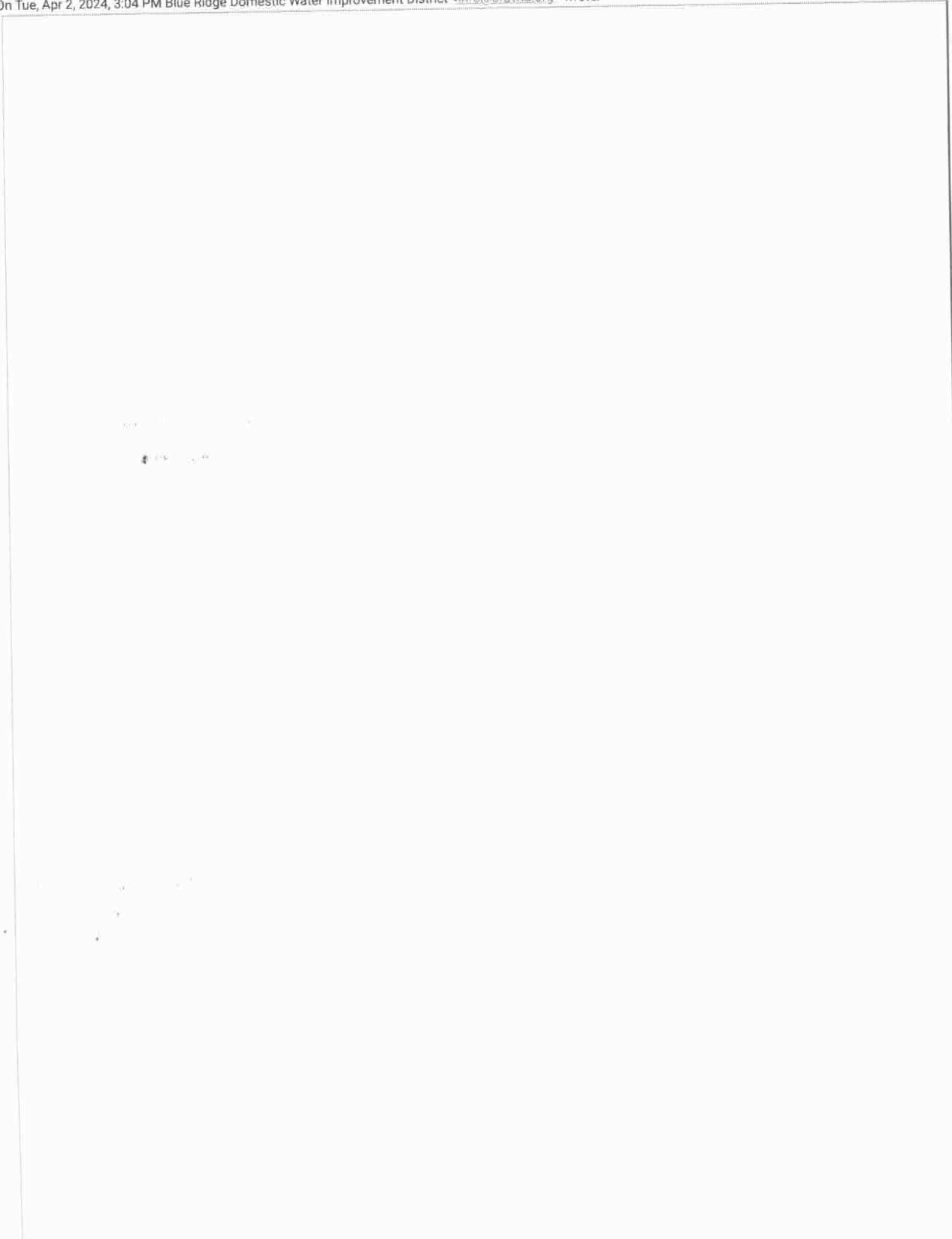
**Re: From the Chairman's Desk - Rationale for Proposed Rate Increase**



**From** Dan Pirtle [REDACTED]  
**To** Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District <info@brdwid.org>  
**Date** 2024-04-04 17:49

Love the transparency in pricing. Well done. Glad to pay the increase and fully believe in the management team.

On Tue, Apr 2, 2024, 3:04 PM Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District <info@brdwid.org> wrote:





## Price changes



**From** Deb [REDACTED]

**To** <info@brdwid.org> [REDACTED]

**Date** 2024-04-05 16:43

Tom,

I just want to write to let you know how wonderful of a job I believe you are doing!

I told the AZCC that if the prices doubled it would still be a better price than my water bill in Phx.

I so appreciate your transparency, your breaking it all down and explaining what has happened.

Any reasonable person knows that unexpected things happen especially as we walk into new places.

Great Job!

I don't think anyone is better qualified to handle this situation than you.

Thank You for all you have and continue to do for our water board!!!

## Fwd: Rate Hearing



**From** Tom Osterday <tom.osterday@brdwid.org>  
**To** John Ritter <john.ritter@brdwid.org>  
**Date** 2024-04-05 20:50

John,

In an effort for full disclosure, I am sharing an email I received from Dave Wang about the rate hearing. I think we have to include it in the comments.

Tom



**Tom Osterday**  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District

*To ensure compliance with the Open Meeting Law, recipients of this message should not forward it to other board members and board members should not reply to this message.*

Please visit the Blue Ridge Domestic Water Improvement District website at <https://www.brdwid.org> for water system information and updates.

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Rate Hearing  
**Date:** 2024-04-05 17:05  
**From:** David Wang <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** Tom Osterday <Tom.Osterday@brdwid.org>

Tom

Did you schedule this snowstorm in a blatant effort to discourage public comment at the hearing? Pretty sneaky move...

Dave Wang