

CASTLE DANGER SUBORDINATE SERVICE DISTRICT  
WASTEWATER RATE HEARING  
APRIL 10, 2025

The Castle Danger Wastewater Rate Hearing was held on Thursday, April 10, 2025, in the Board Meeting Room at 1924 Town Road for the purpose of discussing all issues before the Board.

Present were Supervisors: Chuck Voss and Greg Hull; Clerk Alison Oftedahl; Town Operations and Facilities Manager Paul Thompson, Wastewater Operator Eric Appelwick; and Deputy Clerk Katie Anderson.

Absent: Supervisor Scott Krech

Visitors Present: Natalie and Sandy Hoff, Dwight Lind, and Clark Sweet

Chairman Voss called the Rate Hearing to order at 6:36 p.m. after the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Annual Sewer Report**

Wastewater Operator Appelwick reported that last year 6.4 million gallons flowed in and 5 million treated gallons were irrigated out. He said that ending trucked in septage was an accomplishment last year. He reported that in the short term the pumps in Lift Station 1 will be replaced. In the long term the capacity of Lift Station 1 needs to be increased, the generators will need replacement, and pond dredging may be needed if expensive enzymes are not applied to clear the sludge. Chairman Voss added that a new manhole and larger tank are needed at Lift Station 1 as well as duplex stations that need to be changed to one chamber.

### **Financial Balance**

Voss presented the 2024 Cash Control Report. At the end of the year, the operating fund had \$9,833. The Replacement fund had \$185,028 for a combined total of \$194,861. He explained that the new pumps this year will cost about \$80,000. In response to questions about the budget, Hull displayed the Budget/Levy spreadsheet used to track actual expenses, and Voss explained that this year's \$197,000 budget is part of a plan to avoid expensive assessments. In response to questioning, Hull explained that the Town cannot rely upon state or external funding for needed upgrades. There were also questions about a planned RV Park in the district and whether it was included in the rate calculations. The Board explained that it was not. The RV Park will bring added revenue when it is connected. Two other new residential accounts are expected later this year.

### **Proposed Rates**

The draft 2025 Sewer Rate Resolution was presented (included below). The Rate Calculation spreadsheet was also presented to explain how the rates were calculated. Voss explained that the residential rate was raised to \$71 per month but remains lower than the rates of other nearby Township sewer systems.

### **Hearing of Appeals**

Natalie Hoff questioned the Rustic Inn's rate increase of 46%, stating that it was not affordable and questioning why their account went up more than others. In response, the meter reading results were displayed showing a 20% increase in usage at the restaurant. The rate was also affected by the Town's budget increase of 11%, and by the usage of other commercial accounts. The ordinance requires each customer be charged according to their percentage of usage. The Town was willing to install a new water meter at the restaurant and Thompson was asked to provide the Hoff's with meter reading history. Voss encouraged them to check for any water leaks or toilets that run to see if that caused the increase in gallons.

Dwight Lind stated that he was only there for the entertainment.

Clark Sweet asked a variety of questions about the budget, but did not appeal his rate.

There being no further questions or comments, motion Hull second Voss to adopt Resolution 2025-5 setting Castle Danger Sewer Rates, as presented below. Motion carried. The resolution was then adopted upon a roll-call vote (2:0:0:1) as follows:

Ayes: Supervisors Voss and Hull

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Supervisor Krech

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**RESOLUTION 2025-5**  
**2025 SEWER RATES IN THE CASTLE DANGER SEWER DISTRICT**

**Residential Monthly Rates**

Sewer: \$71/month  
Auxiliary habitable structures: \$21/month

**Commercial Monthly Rates**

Rustic Inn - \$1,373/month  
Gooseberry Cottages - \$299/month  
Grand Superior Lodge - \$6,940/month  
Gooseberry Cabins - \$ 221/month  
Castle Haven - \$398/month  
Gooseberry Falls State Park - \$2,261/month

1. Late payment fee:
  - Residential** – 1.50% per month on outstanding balance  
Late fees will be assessed 45 days from billing date.  
Shut off notice will be issued at 90 days from billing date unless board votes to suspend it.
  - Commercial** – 1.50% per month on outstanding balances  
Late fees will be assessed at 30 and 60 days from billing date.  
Shut off notice will be issued at 90 days from billing date unless the board votes to suspend it.
2. Account transfer fee: \$25.00
3. Sewer turn-on fee: \$200.00
4. Sewer shut-off fee: \$200.00
  5. New Account Application Fee: \$550
  6. Residential Access Fee: \$8,000.00
  7. Commercial Access Fee: \$6,331.48/100,000 gallons per year
  8. In the event I&I is discovered or identified as coming from a connection, the Board shall have the option of assessing a monthly penalty of \$100.00 until satisfactory repairs are made.

Adopted this 10th day of April 2025.

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Charles Voss

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory Hull

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Scott Krech

ATTEST:

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Katie Anderson, Deputy Clerk

There being no further business, motion Hull, second Voss to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alison Oftedahl, Clerk