Ron Edwards <ron@wsd363.com>   8:42 AM (4 hours ago)

to Terry, me

Hi Pam,

We have been using water smart for about a year now. We also use Black Mountain for our billing and quickbooks for our books. We also use Invoice Cloud for our auto pay and credit card payments platform. We have the same issue that you have with black mountain not integrating into quickbooks.

We have been happy with our system and our customers seem to like it as well. We have a fixed based AMI water system that gives us hour reads on our water meters. The water usage data gets pushed into the Watersmart Platform. And the billing data gets pushed into it as well. This allows our customers to see their water usage and the bill amount in real time. They can pay the bill online with credit card or setup auto payments. As far as costs I have cc'ed our finance officer, Terry Smith who will look this up and send you more information about that.

Ron Edwards
General Manager
Big Sky County Water & Sewer District No. 363
PO Box 160670
561 Little Coyote Road
Big Sky, MT 59716
406.995.2660 (O)
406.995.3053 (F)
www.bigskywatersewer.com

Pam,
Bigfork uses Black Mountain billing, accounting and payroll. I switched to Black Mountain billing around 2005, and to Black Mountain accounting in 2011 from Quickbooks. We also have email bills, the ACH module, service orders, and very importantly, Cash Receipting. CR has enough features that it has helped us avoid the audit findings for lack of separation of duties. It almost works like an additional office staff member. I know it is expensive, but the integration between the programs makes the office work much better with fewer entry errors switching between programs. We took on Woods Bay Water management a year and a half ago. Woods Bay only has 265 customers and is still on Quickbooks accounting. It makes me remember how cumbersome it is for government accounting and reporting. If you switch, paying Black Mountain to transfer data is well worth the money. I tried doing it on my own and ended up getting them to help.

Julie Spencer

District Manager
Bigfork Water & Sewer District
(406) 837-4566

Stefeni Freese   Tue, Apr 12, 4:52 PM
                                                        (20 hours ago)

to me

Black Mountain Software is very good software for governments whereas QuickBooks is not built for fund accounting. Having said that, you don't really use fund accounting. We did run into some trouble matching deposits into Quickbooks with the billing and collection software. Would Black Mountain also handle the billing? If so, the matching of the billing with the payment collection would be a lot better internal controls for financial reporting. That is a lot more money though, so you have to weigh the cost/benefits.

With Black Mountain, CPA's can also log right into their software if allowed by the client for audit purposes. We do that on a number of clients that use it.

Stefeni Freese   Tue, Apr 12, 5:51 PM
                                                        (19 hours ago)

to me

Looks like Black Mountain and QuickBooks are what has been used.