

To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Michelle Metteer, Town Manager
Date: 02/21/2024
Agenda Item: WaterSmart Meter Read Program



REQUEST:

Approve \$43,409 from the Enterprise Fund toward the annual WaterSmart Meter Program cost.

INTRODUCTION:

As part of the 2019 Water Capital Improvement Plan approved by the Council, staff undertook the process of replacing the aging water meters on every structure in Town. Purposefully, WaterSmart Meters were installed to support Minturn's Strategic Plan strategy to "Practice fair, transparent and communicative local government." Within this strategy the Council further elaborates the initiative by indicating "The Town will seek to make ethical, informed, data-based decisions..."

ANALYSIS:

The WaterSmart meter system not only supports the Town in the initiative toward improved data and decision-making but takes this initiative a step further by allowing the Minturn water users to be a part of that process and solution. The WaterSmart program puts water use information into the hands of the people who need it the most, the water users. By having this data, water users can begin to be a part of the consumption solution. Customers will be more aware of their water use and can see real-time information like leaks and over-consumption.

This program has been a long time in the coming. As our climate dries and water consumption continues to become a more valuable resource, Minturn benefits by educating our businesses and residents on the value of water and the new to consume wisely. By allowing the Town to contribute \$43,409 toward the ability to obtain this data, the Town, residents, and businesses can all begin our journey toward becoming more WaterSmart.

[WaterSmart: Intelligence Beyond the Meter](#)

Cost has been an issue during past requests for support of this program. Since the staff's last request, here are the steps that have been taken to address the cost issues:

1. Subsidized the USGS Cross Creek River Gage Annual Contract with the following:
 - a. \$10,000 contribution from the Colorado Water Conservation Board
 - b. (Potential) \$3110.67 contribution from ERWSD
 - c. These two contributions cover Minturn's annual cost toward the gage
2. \$30,298.33 from the Minturn North Cash in Lieu revenues which are to be used toward the augmentation water contracts in 2024. See attached page from Minturn North Development Agreement requiring the payment of \$1,377,034 within 30 days of recording the Final Plat. The Final Plat is being recorded March 5, 2024.

The \$1,377,034 is the first cash in lieu fee payment from Minturn North and represents the payment for the first 34 SFEs. These funds can only be used for items like augmentation water contracts, water rights diligence, and a handful of other water-related matters, but an additional benefit to Minturn is that the revenue frees up monies in the Enterprise Funds which would have otherwise been used to cover such costs. Town treasurer Jay Brunvand will be creating a separate high-yield savings account (5.5% with 100% liquidity) to allow this influx of cash in lieu funds to slowly regenerate.

COMMUNITY INPUT: Valued

BUDGET / STAFF IMPACT: Net zero

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

PRACTICE FAIR, TRANSPARENT AND COMMUNICATIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION:

Approve Minturn's inclusion in the WaterSmart Meter Read Program

ATTACHMENTS: None