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**Meeting Date:** May 29, 2025      **Agenda Type:** Action Items

**From:** Jessica Coleman      **Reviewed by:** John Warren  
Finance & Risk Manager      Director of Finance

**Submitted by:** Dawn Schriewer      **Approved by:** Ryan Kelso  
Chief Financial Officer      Chief Executive Officer

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Discuss and Consider Receiving the Electric, Water, and Wastewater Utility Revenues, Revenue Requirements, and Rates Report, Including Community Advisory Panel Feedback from Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. and Britton Strategies LLC

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## BACKGROUND

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In April of 2023, the New Braunfels Utilities (“NBU”) Board of Trustees directed staff to assemble a Community Advisory Panel (“CAP”) tasked with reviewing and providing feedback on certain NBU projects, including a Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Rate Study. On August 31, 2023, the Board approved Resolution #2023-176 establishing the CAP. On October 26, 2023, the Board approved the CAP Bylaws, and appointed thirteen (13) CAP members. On January, 25, 2024, the Board approved a Professional Services Agreement with Britton Strategies LLC to provide facilitation services for all CAP related meetings, and leadership strategic planning consultations. On June 27, 2024, the Board approved a Professional Services Agreement with Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. to conduct a water, wastewater, and electric rate study and to provide related community education.

The CAP has held four (4) public meetings related to the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Rate Plan. During those meetings, the CAP discussed topics including (i) Identify Financial and Pricing Objectives; (ii) Identify Revenue Requirements and Growth Projections; (iii) Develop Rate Projections and Possible Rate Design Changes; and (iv) Assess Effectiveness in Addressing Financial and Pricing Objectives.

Additionally, CAP members provided feedback to NBU staff and consultants based on Electric Pricing Objectives to include (i) Rate & Revenue Stability; (ii) Financial Sufficiency; (iii) Minimal Customer Impacts; (iv) Renewables; (v) Rate Structure Transparency; and (vi) Ease of Customer Understanding. The CAP Water Pricing Objectives included (i) Essential Use Affordability; (ii) Revenue Stability; (iii) Conservation Pricing Signals; (iv) Ease of Customer Understanding; and (v) Ease of Administration.

Staff worked vigorously to finalize the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget and Financial Operating Plan in order to incorporate the results of the rate study and CAP processes. The ultimate deliverable for Raftelis is a report on the findings of the rate study, which is attached as Exhibit 1. Britton Strategies developed a report from the CAP, including their feedback and response to the NBU Rate Study, which is attached as Exhibit 2.

NBU staff requests that the Board of Trustees accept the reports as presented.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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None

## **LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

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**Customers and Community**

**Financial Excellence**

## **EXHIBITS**

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1. Electric, Water and Wastewater Utility Rate Study – Final Report Prepared by Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc.
2. CAP Final Report and Response to the NBU Rate Study