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Latest News - Posted 5:18 P.m.

Cape residents to pay more for utilities

By Don Ruane
druane@news-press.com
Originally posted on May 15, 2006

Cape Coral residents are looking at a 33.5 percent increase in their water and sewer bills over the next five years.

The increase, which will take the average bill of \$57 to \$76 a month in 2010, is needed to help finance \$564 million of improvements to the city's utilities system.

Resident John Harrop said he wants more information about the projects that will be built before supporting the financing program.

"These reports are a matter of public record. Why aren't they on the Internet," Harrop asked. "We've got the Internet. Let's use it for something other than posting Social Security numbers."

Newcomers will help pay for some of the improvements, which include new water and sewer plants in north Cape Coral and expanded plants south of Pine Island Road.

An impact fee increase of 12 percent is built into the financing plan. Finance Director mark Mason told the city council Monday during a workshop.

But that's not the only utilities news in Cape Coral on Monday. The bill for getting water, sewer and irrigation lines installed in the next utilities expansion area will be about \$22,000, city spokeswoman Connie Barron said.

The next area is between Veterans and Mohawk parkways and Skyline and Chiquita boulevards.

That doesn't include impact fees or plumbing costs involved with tying a home into the system, Barron said.

Rising materials and labor costs account for the assessment, Mason said.

There's also a layer of rock in that section of the city that will have to be removed, Public Works Director Chuck Pavlos said. The rock covers 42 percent of the path for the pipelines, Pavlos said.

In previous projects rock was a problem for eight percent of the routes, he said.

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