

WD-190845

December 19, 2019  
Phil Gothro  
Scenic Shores Community  
Assoc. - Written Statement

Commissioners,

Ladies & Gentlemen, I would like to say one thing... Change. Yes change... no one wants change, but, it happens. What did the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus write? The only thing constant is change itself. It has been seven years since Scenic Shores has raised rates. During which time everything has changed. Property taxes, electrical rates, fuel costs, water monitoring, repairs, training, even salaries and postage have all gone up.

Let's take a look at a couple of examples. Replacement cost of lead-free brass in our infrastructure is 30% greater than straight brass was in 2012. Is there anyone here who has not gotten a salary increase in the last seven years? Social Security is implementing a 1.6% rate increase for 2020. Thurston County Environmental Health has raised rates three times for a total of 19% since 2012! Thurston County has raised it's recording fees by 63% over the same time period. Twice last July alone! Scenic shores has asked the UTC for a 16% base rate increase. A bitter pill I know. But if you break it down that's a 2.28 % annual increase over the same period. We have also asked for an adjustment on the water tiers to encourage conservation. This is something that benefits all of us.

So, you see, what Scenic Shores had tried to do, was keep the water rate constant. We don't want change any more than you do. But, when things get to the point of negative cash-flow, we have to act. Yes, I agree it's unfortunate but there's no alternative. No one wants change, but sometimes it's necessary. Thank you.

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