

COMPTON WATER ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 825, Compton, AR 72624

870-420-3930

www.comptonwater@gmail.com

Hello Compton Water Members

2024 is bringing some changes for us. Act 605 was passed into legislation in 2021 to begin being enforced to water systems throughout the state beginning this year.

Most of the legislation affects only the day-to-day operations of the water department. The issue that will affect you is the mandated rate study. This is a study conducted by the Arkansas Department of Health to determine if our rates are viable to support our association. This will likely cause an increase of 50-100% to our rates. This is not something we can control; it is mandated by the state.

Many of you have expressed an interest for an online bill payment option. Good news! As of April 16th, we have partnered with NexBillPay to allow this service. NexBillPay charges a \$2.50 fee for payments. Compton Water Association does not receive any portion of the fee.

With warmer temperatures coming on, we would like to remind you to keep your meter box area clean and accessible. This includes; weed eating around the meter box, maintaining easy access from the road to your meter, and keeping aggressive pets out of the meter area during our reading dates. If the meter reader is unable to safely get to your meter, readings will be estimated for the month. If the inability to read your meter becomes a regular occurrence, you will be required to call your readings in to the office monthly. Meters are read between the 20th and 25th of each month. Every meter is required to have a shut off valve and pressure regulator valve in place. When a meter is placed, the cost incurred is not for the meter, but for the access to our water. We will begin checking for this and letters will be sent out if you do not have those valves in place. You will have 30 days from the date of the letter to get them in place; otherwise, the meter will be locked. These valves give you the ability to control and turn off your water as needed. The meter is the property of Compton Water Association. Please refrain from using our meter as your shut off. Any damage incurred to our meters by users will be the responsibility of the user.

Several years ago, we adopted a "Million-Mile Meter" program for the meters that read over 1,000,000 gallons. We have multiple meters that we are working on getting replaced. If you notice that your reading is above that amount, just know that it will be replaced in the near future.

At the March Business and Board meeting, CWA adopted a new vacant meter policy. The policy states;

"Every vacant meter currently installed and previously used by a water member will be subject to paying the current monthly base rate effective May 2024 billing. If they decline to pay the monthly base rate, then the meter and tap will be pulled in the month of June 2024. To reinstate the meter and tap, the cost will be that of the current fee for a new install (today that's \$1,500.00 plus a \$300.00 deposit). Once the meter is pulled, to install a new one will be at the discretion of Compton Water, as long as the system isn't tapped out and has room for the new meter on the system. If they ever cease to pay the base rate the meter will be considered under the same terms as above. Notice will be given to each vacant meter, then 45 days is needed for a response otherwise it will be pulled. If property owner can be located, any

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deposits will be returned if they decide not to pay the base rate. The new policy comes into practice March 19, 2024.”

If you are considering selling your property, we wanted to update you on the new considerations that must be taken for each new tap or connection. Because the water system is older, limited, and stressed, vacant land or homes not currently tapped into the system will not automatically receive water. Each new tap will be looked at and evaluated as to our ability to supply water to it. A new tap request will require the submission of a building and use plan, a business plan if that is the buyer's direction, a subdivision plan (how many lots) and a septic evaluation or report from the Health Department before any water will be considered.

In addition, great efforts have been made to contact Real Estate Companies that may list any type of property for sale around the Compton Water service area with an explanation of our position and new policies. When listing your property for sale, it might be helpful to reach out to us so that we can be of help to you. There are absolute cases where buyers have been told by the Realtor or the seller that there was rural community water supplied, when in fact, that was not correct. It can be very expensive for prospective buyers to get water after the fact where Compton Water cannot supply it. Let's all work together to solve potential issues. We desire to sell water to everyone who asks, but what we want to do and what we can do are not always the same.

You can find the latest accounting information on our website; www.comptonwater.com. If you are not already, we encourage you to join our Facebook group, Compton Water Association. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please call the office at (870) 420-3930, you may also contact us through the website, or email at comptonwater@gmail.com.

We also encourage you to come to a Board & Business meeting. They are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Compton Community Building.

Thank you
Compton Water Association

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