At its regular, monthly meeting on December 12, 2017, the Public Utilities Commission approved new electric and sewer rates for Lake Crystal Utility customers. The new rates will take effect January 1, 2018 and be billed for the first time on the February 15, 2018 utility billing. Information on the new rates are below.

**ELECTRIC**

On average, electric utility rates will be increased 2% for all customers. The increase was necessary due to increased operating expenses. Additionally, the rate increase was recommended as part of the 2015 Electric Utility Rate Study, which was discussed at a public open house in October of 2015. The new residential rates are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW</th>
<th>CURRENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Customer Charge/meter</td>
<td>$10.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usage/kWh</td>
<td>$ 0.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A residential utility customer uses an average of 912 kWh/month and would experience an increase of $2.95/month.

**SEWER**

On average, sewer utility rates will be increased 3% for all customers. The new residential rates are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW</th>
<th>CURRENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Residential – 0 to 2,000 Gallons</td>
<td>37.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance &gt; 2,000 Gallons</td>
<td>4.64 / 1,000 Gal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A residential utility customer uses an average of 4,000 gallons/month and would experience an increase of $1.38 per month.

In 2016 and 2017, the Public Utilities Commission approved increases to sewer rates, which were projected to generate enough revenue to cover year-to-year operating losses. The new rates have performed as expected and covered the losses the sewer utility was experiencing.

(CONTINUED ON BACK)
However, large capital projects and debt service requirements (e.g., sewer main improvements, significant upgrades to, or new construction of, a wastewater treatment plant in the next 5 years) loom on the horizon. Furthermore, much more restrictive nutrient and chemical discharge regulations being considered by the EPA and MPCA will increase operating costs significantly in the coming years. In order to prepare for these projects and prevent a large rate spike, incremental increases in sewer rates this year, and over the next several years, are necessitated.

The Public Utilities Commission made the decision to increase electric and sewer rates following discussion at a budget work session on November 21 and regular meeting on December 12. All Commission meetings are open to the public. Copies of the new electric and sanitary sewer rate schedule are available online at [http://www.ci.lake-crystal.mn.us/](http://www.ci.lake-crystal.mn.us/) and at City Hall.

### CITY HALL & PUBLIC LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

Monday, February 5
4:00 – 6:30 PM

Join us for an open house showcasing the recently completed City Hall & Public Library!

100 E. Robinson St.

Refreshments will be served.

### CITY COMMISSION OPENINGS

Parks & Recreation Commission (2) 2 year term of office

Applications are due February 1, 2018

### Winter Parking Rules

**CHAPTER 71 – USE OF HIGHWAYS, STREETS AND THE LIKE**

**SECTION 12: WINTER PARKING.**

Subdivision 1. No person shall stop, stand, or park any vehicle or permit it to stand on any street between November 1 and April 15 of each year so as to obstruct the removal of snow from streets during snow removal operations.

Any police officer may remove a vehicle from a street or parking lot to a garage or other place of impound when the vehicle constitutes an obstruction to traffic or hinders snow removal or other maintenance operations. Such vehicle shall not be released until the towing fees are paid. In addition parking tickets will need to be paid as indicated below.

**FEES:**

Towing Fee: $125.00, $25 per day over one day of storage.

Towing fee payable to “Maloney Enterprises” before your vehicle will be released. To retrieve your vehicle call 507-642-3543.

Parking Ticket: $127.00

Please allow 10 days from the date the citation was issued before making payment (online, phone, or regular mail).

Fine Info Only: 507-304-4666 (back of citation)
Courthouse Office: 507-304-4650 (back of citation)
Other options (Online, phone or regular mail):

[www.mncourts.gov](http://www.mncourts.gov) 1-800-657-3611 651-281-3219 (Metro)

Mail and make checks payable to:

MN Court Payment Center
PO Box 898
Willmar, MN 56201

**APPROVED CITY LOTS TO PARK IN DURING SNOW REMOVAL**

1. East of Park View Clinic at the corner of Humphrey & Murphy Streets.
2. East of Legacy Home Center at the corner of Prince and Lincoln Streets.
3. Robinson Park Boat Landing

The City Street & Maintenance Department in cooperation with the Lake Crystal Police Department asks for Lake Crystal residents to please park vehicles off the streets when snow removal is imminent.