water rates.

HOW WILL WATER RATES CHANGE?

Fixture fees will be a thing of the past. Meters, which measure actual water used, will be installed at each connection. A metered rate should only cover water production, operations and maintenance, and if necessary, prior debt service. Water is metered in 100 cubic feet (1 CCF) which equals 750 gallons.

It is difficult to predict how water rates will change when Winsted moves from a fixture fee to a metered rate which bills for actual use. For example, the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) charges $1.195 per 1 CCF and Bridgeport Hydraulic charges $2.144 for the first 420 CCF and $0.981 thereafter.

If the loan payback is billed as an annual water surcharge, metered rates need not absorb those fees. Water rates would more accurately reflect production and not penalize low quantity water

to examine the proposed project in detail, to reveal its flaws and omissions, to review the data on water use in town and projected population growth, to discover the distribution system problems, which include an enormous amount of daily water waste, and to recommend solutions.

State law does not concern itself with such things as pipes and water waste. It only demands that we build a filtration facility, needed or not, that meets federal safe drinking water standards. Like so many laws, this one does not view the entire water system and its interrelated components. Through delay, we were able to tailor this mandate to better fit our needs by pursuing a plan which recognizes that the relationship of individual components affects the efficiency of a water system.

Under the circumstances, Winsted has an opportunity to fulfill and go beyond the state's mandate, stretch our federal dollars further and apply them to solving some of our real water system problems. Let's do it.