1	Page 1 STATE OF MISSOURI
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
3	TOBBLE BERVICE COMMISSION
4	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
5	INTROCED INCOME.
	Local Public Hearing
6	local labite hearing
	March 15, 2011
7	March 13, 2011
8	Branson, Missouri
9	Volume 1 @ Page 1
10	In The Matter of The Small ) File No. WR-2011-0037
	Company Rate Increase Of )
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13	MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, Presiding
14	CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
15	ROBERT M. CLAYTON, III,
	COMMISSIONER
16	
17	REPORTED BY: TRACIE BRUMLEY, CCR No. 620
18	(Hearing started at 6:37 p.m.)
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1	Page 3 PROCEEDINGS
2	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Good evening, everyone.
3	Let's come to order, please. Welcome to our local public
4	hearing considering Tri-States Utilities request for a rate
5	increase. This is file number WR-2011-0037. My name is
6	Morris Woodruff. I'm Chief Regulatory Law Judge for the
7	Public Service Commission. And I'll be presiding at the
8	hearing tonight. In a moment I will have the people who
9	signed up on the list come forward and offer their
10	testimony. And if you would come around to the podium here,
11	I will swear you in. You can tell us what you want to tell
12	us. There's two names on the list. If there's anyone else
13	who wants to testify after those two people have gone, we'll
14	give you a chance to testify also. I also would like to
15	introduce to my right here Commissioner Robert Clayton.
16	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Thank you, Judge. My
17	name is Robert Clayton. I'm one of the five members of the
18	Missouri Public Service Commission. I'm glad to be here in
19	Branson and look forward to the testimony that is going to
20	be provided tonight. If you have any specific challenges
21	with the utility, I would encourage you to take advantage of
22	the opportunity to meet with either the Public Service
23	Commission staff or the Office of Public Counsel
24	representative who's here or representatives from the
25	utility. Usually these are wonderful opportunities to get

1	people together and work out any problems that you may be
2	facing with your utility service.
3	We will be making a transcript of the
4	proceeding here tonight to be made part of the record back
5	on our electronic filing system. All of the commissioners
6	will review all of the testimony that will be provided here
7	tonight that will be taken as part of the record in the
8	case, so I look forward to the testimony. Thank you for
9	coming out.
10	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Before I call the first
11	witness, I need to determine which attorneys are here for
12	the parties. Will begin with staff.
13	MS. MCCLOWRY: Meghan McClowry for the staff
14	of the Public Service Commission. My business address is PO
15	Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
16	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Office of public counsel?
17	MS. BAKER: Thank you. Christina Baker, PO
18	Box 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102, appearing on
19	behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel and the rate
20	payors.
21	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Is Tri-States Utilities
22	represented by legal counsel? All right. Well then let's
23	go ahead and call the first witness which is Dick Gass.
24	Evening, Mr. Gass.
25	MR. GASS: Good evening. Thanks for having

1	Page 5 us here and thanks for coming and
2	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Before you start, I need to
3	swear you in, so if you'll raise your right hand.
4	(Witness duly sworn).
5	JUDGE WOODRUFF: And could you spell your
6	last name for us?
7	MR. GASS: My name is Richard Edward Gass.
8	I'm known as Dick Gass, G-a-s-s. I live at 178 Norwood
9	Drive in Branson.
10	We just sat through a question-and-answer
11	session before we came to a full-blown hearing and they
12	answered our questions. They did a good job, but the way I
13	look at this, the water company was good enough to give me
14	this information over the phone today and they were very
15	patient with me and they looked at how much how much
16	water that I used for last year and how much it cost me.
17	And then they told me with the rate increase how much that
18	same amount would cost me after the rate increase; and I
19	figured it up to be 24.6 percent increase on my I'm not
20	talking about the overall increase of 11 point, whatever it
21	is, but I'm just talking about and I'm an individual
22	homeowner, and that's what it would cost me individually
23	would be 11.1 as you use the water.
24	I think that a 24.6 percent increase is way
25	out of line for somebody that's in a private home. I'm not

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1	a commercial business. It just seems way out of line. I
2	hope you guys look at that. And, you know, to grant a 24.6
3	percent increase for water makes about as much sense to me
4	as rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic and that's the
5	way I feel. I'm not talking about the Titanic on 76. I'm
6	talking about the one way down there under the water.
7	So I hope you take that into consideration
8	when you're looking at this. 24.6 percent, gentlemen, I
9	don't think you would like that. Thank you.
10	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Mr. Gass, may I ask
11	you a few questions?
12	MR. GASS: Sure.
13	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: When you when you
14	had the water company do an analysis of your bill
15	MR. GASS: That's right.
16	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: would you consider
17	yourself a low user of water, a big user of water, about
18	average? Do you know where you fit in the spectrum of
19	things?
20	MR. GASS: Well, you would have to tell me
21	give me some numbers.
22	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Well, do you know how
23	many gallons of water you use on a regular basis?
24	MR. GASS: Yeah. 61,900 gallons of water.
25	Now, I don't know where that is, medium, low, high. You

1	Page 7 folks might be able to enlighten me.
2	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Be, what, over 5,000
3	gallons a month?
4	Does anyone here know what the average usage
5	is for this utility? Mr. Bush, do you know that? That's
6	about, what, 5,000, a little over 5,000 gallons a month?
7	MR. BUSH: That's about average statewide. I
8	couldn't be specific.
9	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Okay.
10	MR. GASS: So I'm not a high user. I figured
11	I would be pretty average.
12	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Mr. Gass, can you tell
13	me about the service that is the service good? Are you
14	happy with the service, any problems?
15	MR. GASS: I have no problems with service,
16	nor the people that provide the service. They do a good
17	job. I have no problem with the people. It's just that
18	percent I'm looking at.
19	The other thing I brought up, and they
20	pretty well answered it, that was upsetting to me was
21	sprinkler system. That's where most of our water goes.
22	Everybody likes a green lawn. Nobody likes brown for some
23	reason. I don't know why. We're all Irish I guess. But in
24	the wintertime, as you folks all know living around here, we
25	blow our lines out, shut the system off for a good three to

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- 1 four months. We don't use that water, yet we pay for that
- 2 meter. And I think I have to disagree with what they were
- 3 saying the meter pays for the -- you know, that meter charge
- 4 pays for the maintenance and everything, but I think there
- 5 should be -- you don't use that meter. It's shut off. You
- 6 shouldn't have to pay that monthly fee for those three
- 7 months until you turn it back on and start using that water
- 8 with your sprinkler system because they make a lot of their
- 9 money through the sprinkler system. Do you have any comment
- 10 on that?
- 11 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I can't comment on any
- 12 particular part of the case. I'm here to get your
- 13 testimony.
- 14 MR. GASS: Okay. Well that's my testimony.
- 15 And I don't think I'm out of line on that. I just -- it
- 16 just doesn't seem right to pay that meter charge when you
- 17 don't -- when you got it turned off, you don't even use it.
- 18 And I know about the overall maintenance, it all goes into
- 19 one big pot; but I think there should be some consideration
- 20 on that. I think it's only fair to the user.
- 21 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: This is not the first
- 22 time. It's the first time I've heard it come up as referred
- 23 to with regard to water, especially with natural gas service
- 24 this has come up before, so this is an ongoing challenge for
- 25 us to work on. Thank you very much for your testimony.

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1	MR. GASS: By the way, you know, we're
2	getting a natural gas company in Branson. We're all happy
3	about it. Thank you.
4	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Attorneys have any
5	questions?
6	Next name on the list is Bob Grenier. Good
7	evening, sir.
8	MR. GRENIER: Evening. Thank you for
9	allowing us to do this.
10	JUDGE WOODRUFF: If you would please raise
11	your right hand, I will swear you in.
12	(Witness duly sworn.)
13	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you. You might want
14	to spell your last name for the court reporter.
15	MR. GRENIER: It's G-r-e-n-i-e-r. First name
16	James. I live at 454 Woodland Drive in Woodlands, Branson,
17	Missouri.
18	JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell
19	us?
20	MR. GRENIER: Been a customer of Tri-Lakes
21	Tri-States Water Utility for six years. We discovered
22	shortly after we moved in that one of the things we needed
23	to do was soften our water. That's not necessarily their
24	fault, it's just hard water. And we did that. The water is
25	actually pretty good. I've got to give due where due is

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1	needed and that is that their service has definitely
2	improved in the last year because we had a lot of water
3	shutoffs, breakdowns for the five years before that.
4	It was mentioned earlier that they had
5	applied for an increase back in 2008, and I don't know
6	whatever happened to that; but the increase wasn't passed
7	for one reason or another.
8	I would like to just read the letter if I
9	could that I sent to the commission and it will help
10	Mr. Gass' percentages because mine are even worse than his.
11	On January 28, 2011 the Tri-States Utility,
12	Incorporated, the utility supplying water to our residential
13	address, gave notice of a proposed rate increase. No doubt
14	for the last year, Tri-States, Incorporated has for whatever
15	reason improved their delivery of water to our residence
16	over what had been for several years in the past. We used
17	to lose service several times per year and sometimes for
18	several days at a time. Because of their improved service,
19	Tri-States Utility may possibly be entitled to some increase
20	in rates for their product. I think it's worth noting that
21	the fact that they haven't had a rate increase since
22	sometime back in the 1980s is not necessarily our fault.
23	You know, they could have applied for rate increases along
24	the way. I don't know whether they did and they were turned
25	down or whether they just didn't apply for them, but it

1	Page 1 seems to me you're essentially asking us to help them catch
2	up.
3	However it is our opinion that the
4	increases proposed are very extreme. Under the existing
5	rate and I'm using the rates that were published on the
6	sheet that they sent us.
7	Under the existing rates, the user
8	received the first 2,000 gallons of water included in the
9	monthly minimum charge. For a 5/8ths pipe meter customer
10	the average per 1,000 gallons rate over 2,000 gallons is
11	2.725. They used to have a broken I mean their rates
12	changed whether it was winter or summer. I'm not sure why,
13	but for six months it was one rate and for the other six
14	months it was a higher rate; and so I just averaged them and
15	got 2.725 per gallon.
16	In the example used in the notice of
17	increase, Tri-States indicated the average monthly cost to a
18	6,000 gallon user is 17.50. That's the number here at the
19	bottom. If you just add these together and divide by 2, I
20	get 17.50. The proposed rate of 26.59 is a proposed
21	increase of almost 52 percent as opposed to what Mr. Gass
22	had mentioned of 24 percent.
23	For my wife and me, a household of two,
24	the average monthly usage is closer to 4,000 gallons for
25	which we would currently pay 12.05 a month. Again, using

1	$$\operatorname{Page}\ 12$$ their existing rates starting with the first 2,000 minimum
2	and then the rate per thousand and beyond that and averaging
3	them for the 6 months and 6 months, comes up to 12.05 and
4	the rate proposal for a 4,000 gallon user would be \$20 and
5	21 cents. That's an increase of almost 68 percent. We
б	think this is extreme.
7	To the best of my memory the United
8	States Social Security Administration has not extended the
9	cost of living increase in our Social Security checks for at
10	least the past two years. Economically the economy is
11	generally stagnate. There is virtually no inflation. At
12	the present time interest rates are extremely low. Gas is
13	going up extremely, you know, automobile gas. We think
14	asking for a 68 percent increase in anything at this time is
15	simply extreme. This is not the time to be going to your
16	customers and asking them to pay 68 percent more than they
17	paid the previous year. That's just my opinion.
18	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Mr. Grenier, can I ask
19	you a few questions?
20	MR. GRENIER: Sure.
21	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: You said the service
22	has improved. Can you give me a little more background or
23	understanding about what was wrong with the service
24	before?
25	MR. GRENIER: Well we there was it seems

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1	to me for the first five years that we were Tri-States
2	Utility customers, we would lose water on the average of two
3	to three times a year, due mostly to water main breaks. And
4	I can remember one time we went about three days while they
5	fixed it. It was a major break of some sort. We actually
6	went without water for three days. We started we got in
7	kind of a silly little habit of filling one of our bathtubs
8	with water when we thought there might be a potential for a
9	break. It seemed to depend a little on weather.
10	I remember one instance several years ago
11	when there was a fire down in a restaurant called Fall Creek
12	Steakhouse, and we didn't know there was a fire. We went
13	and turned the water on, there was no water. So I called
14	Tri-States Utility, I said what happened to our water? Well
15	there's a fire down at Fall Creek Steakhouse. Simple fact
16	is the fire department sucked the mains dry trying to put
17	out the fire. That doesn't say a lot for the fire hydrant
18	potential. You know, I mean if the if the fire
19	department could hook onto a fire hydrant down there and
20	suck the mains dry to where we don't get any water,
21	something is wrong with the system I think.
22	But I don't know whether the water
23	pressure problem has improved. We get we get plenty of
24	pressure at our house actually. And this past year or maybe
25	18 months we haven't had a loss in service which is

1	Page 14 commendable I think. So I don't know what they have done to
2	fix that but used to be it was just really regular. Every
3	every two, three, four months we would get a breakage of
4	some sort.
5	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: So can you think of
6	any quality of service problem that they have right now? Is
7	everything fixed and everything
8	MR. GRENIER: Oh no, I think it seems to be.
9	Yeah, it seems to be fine. Again, the water is very hard
10	but I'm not sure that is their fault. It's you know, the
11	water you pull out of the ground through whatever, 16 miles
12	of limestone is going to be hard.
13	I remember when we first moved in, we
14	took a glass of water and sat it on the counter and it
15	actually turned tan from the rust in the I mean, the iron
16	in the water would rust while it was sitting there on the
17	counter.
18	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: It was sitting there
19	and would turn tan?
20	MR. GRENIER: Turned tan, yeah.
21	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: That's comforting.
22	Makes you feel good about what you got going on.
23	MR. GRENIER: Say again?
24	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Makes you feel good
25	about your water service when

1	Page 15 MR. GRENIER: Well they say you need some
2	iron in your diet, but that seemed a little extreme. I
3	don't know. But anyway I think the 52 percent and the 68
4	percent are, you know, I don't mind giving them an increase
5	but I think they are asking for a little too much all at one
6	time. That's just my opinion.
7	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Any increase in price
8	we find these days is a challenge and
9	MR. GRENIER: Oh yeah.
10	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: the message is
11	consistent throughout the State, frankly throughout the
12	country so it's always a real challenge. There are some
13	places that have water rates that are three times this.
14	There are some places where the water rates are lower and
15	finding finding the right level is very difficult and
16	that's the challenge.
17	MR. GRENIER: You know, and I can sympathize
18	with them who have the sprinkler system. Quite honestly, if
19	God doesn't water my lawn, it just gets brown. That's the
20	way it goes.
21	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Just like your water
22	used to be?
23	MR. GRENIER: Yeah. Yeah.
24	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Thank you very much
25	for coming.

1	Page 16 MR. GRENIER: Oh, you're more than welcome.
2	Thank you.
3	JUDGE WOODRUFF: That was the last name on my
4	list. Is there anyone else here who would like to testify?
5	Yes, ma'am. Good evening. Tell us your name, please.
6	MS. MILLIRON: My name is Neva Milliron, and
7	we live at 176 Camp Drive in Branson, Missouri.
8	JUDGE WOODRUFF: You better spell your last
9	name for us.
10	MS. MILLIRON: M-i-l-l-i-r-o-n.
11	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Just like it sounds.
12	MS. MILLIRON: Yeah.
13	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Please raise your right
14	hand.
15	(Witness duly sworn.)
16	JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell
17	us?
18	MS. MILLIRON: Well, I had asked the one
19	of the guys here at the table about the monthly minimum
20	charge and he explained it away, but I still don't agree
21	with it and I still don't understand where he's coming from
22	on it. But in the past clear up until now, we have had
23	monthly minimum here on this letter just like it shows of
24	\$6.60 a month. That included a minimum of 2,000 gallons
25	that you could use before you ever were charged another

1	Page 17
1	penny. He tried to say well that was all included in it,
2	blah-blah, and I really didn't understand because he said if
3	you're gone or not or you're there or not you're still
4	charged 6.60. I said yes, if you're gone two weeks and you
5	come home and you use 1,500 gallons, you still are charged
6	the 6.60 because that first 2,000 is included in the 660.
7	With this new charge there's no
8	minimum allowance at all. You're charged 7.45 a month just
9	for the privilege of being their customer, I guess. And
10	then for every you turn on the faucet at zero and you
11	start up that first thousand gallons, you're going to be
12	charged another 3.58 or 3.19 it is, whatever these charges
13	are per thousand gallons on top of that 7.45. So, in other
14	words, they are not giving you any minimum gallons for the
15	7.45 and they are going to start charging you by the
16	thousand gallons on top of that so your bill could be, you
17	know, for the first 2,000 gallons on top of that 7
18	something, you could be paying in the 7 or \$8 for that first
19	2,000 that you used to get that was included in that basic
20	minimum. That's my complaint. You know, it's like they are
21	wanting more for and giving you less.
22	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner, any questions?
23	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Ma'am, I certainly
24	understand the concern. As I mentioned before, this is not
25	the first time we've dealt with this issue and it's finding

1	Page 18 that right balance. Are you happy with the service that you
2	were receiving from the company?
3	MS. MILLIRON: Yeah. I'm pretty happy with
4	their service, other than this explanation. And to me it's
5	like if you put it into a rate increase, I don't know what
6	that percentage would be, but that would be almost 100
7	percent raise if you were to pay for 2,000 gallons at 3.19
8	per gallon on top of the 7.45 that's well over almost
9	overtake the 6.60 you used to get with the 2,000 included.
10	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Sure.
11	MS. MILLIRON: But as far as the service, it
12	seems like it's okay.
13	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Company treat you okay
14	when you called and have a problem?
15	MS. MILLIRON: Pretty much. I know when you
16	go in the office up there the girls are pretty snappy when
17	they answer a question.
18	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Really?
19	MS. MILLIRON: You know, they're always
20	right, you're never right. Other than that as far as them
21	coming and taking care of things, yeah, they will do that;
22	but like some of them said, you know, they'll charge you to
23	come out and turn it off and turn it back on, \$25 for each
24	and every thing. They lock the meter can so you can't get
25	in there and like he my husband was telling me our

1	Page 19 turn-off valve was inside the can way before these people
2	took over, so we couldn't help where the turn-off valve is.
3	They said well, you know, if you turn the water off, we do
4	have to come out. You know, that isn't our problem they put
5	a lock on there so you can't get to it anymore and you turn
6	it off when you have a problem. So, you know, that's
7	things, little things like that just it makes you feel
8	like you're being punished for paying your bill. I don't
9	know.
10	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: No good deed goes
11	unpunished, right?
12	MS. MILLIRON: Yeah. But mainly it's, you
13	know, the minimum charge it could really add up quick if you
14	would pay 7.45 for the privilege of being their customer and
15	then they start charging you for what you used to get
16	included in the bill for the first 2,000. Then they start
17	charging you
18	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: We deal with this all
19	the time. And I'll tell you specifically in the Kansas City
20	area the gas companies went to putting almost all its costs
21	in a fixed monthly charge. People were not happy with it.
22	The commission stuck with it. There's some reasons for it.
23	And it all comes down to trying to figure out what is the
24	right way to go to make sure there's enough money in the
25	system to keep the water from turning brown or from being

1	Page 20 brown, make sure it doesn't turn off. You got to make sure
2	you got to have enough you got to have the investment in
3	the system to make sure it works. So that's the challenge
4	we have and I thank you for your testimony.
5	MS. MILLIRON: Yeah. And they wanted the
6	660,000 and they said here and say in this letter that
7	they might possibly get instead of that they might
8	possibly get 104,000 something. I'm like the other guy. I
9	do think they need to make some kind of raise but, you know,
10	not to the point where, you know, it's going to make it hard
11	on everybody; because everybody here is on a fixed income, a
12	lot of us are.
13	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Well, it varies around
14	the state. We have water companies throughout the State of
15	Missouri and some pay incredibly high rates.
16	MS. MILLIRON: Oh yeah, I understand that.
17	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: And I just it
18	doesn't mean that it doesn't mean
19	MS. MILLIRON: Just don't want to get started
20	on snowball where before you know it a few years down the
21	line, like this one guy said, you know, it proves every year
22	to be incredibly high and a lot of people in this area can't
23	afford it because we're on fixed incomes.
24	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Well I'll tell you
25	what with water, and I'm talking way too much because I'm

1	Page 21 supposed to be asking questions and listening to your
2	testimony; but the thing about water is it's got to be
3	clean, it's got to be potable, you got to be able to drink
4	it, you got to use it to clean and to cook and everything
5	else. And so, you know, the big concern is making sure that
6	the company has got enough invested in to make sure that
7	product is clean; and that's part of the reason why a lot of
8	systems have a lot higher rates. They have dilapidated
9	systems that require even more investment, and this system
10	hasn't gotten to that. I'm glad to hear the quality of
11	service problems have been addressed.
12	MS. MILLIRON: So far it depends on like my
13	husband said when they break a line, they never notify you.
14	Only notification you get is when you open up your faucet
15	and brown stuff comes out. Well, you don't feel too good
16	about drinking that when it's all yucky stuff. They could
17	have at least let you know. You know, we have had a water
18	main break here; look for water and different things. But
19	other than that that's the only
20	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Yeah, the color brown
21	has been a theme here.
22	MS. MILLIRON: Yes, just like swamp water.
23	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Could we could we
24	It doesn't sound like you have gotten all your questions
25	answered on the thing. I'm wondering if we someone from

1	Page 22 staff could meet with you just right outside?
2	MS. MILLIRON: That's fine. In fact, I still
3	got this paper I was going to give that to the lady outside
4	too.
5	COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Sure. Thank you for
6	coming.
7	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anyone else wish to testify?
8	Yes, sir?
9	MR. RANKIN: Mike Rankin. R-a-n-k-i-n.
10	JUDGE WOODRUFF: If you could raise your
11	right hand.
12	(Witness duly sworn.)
13	JUDGE WOODRUFF: What would you like to tell
14	us?
15	MR. RANKIN: Good evening. Thank you for
16	your time. You have a tough job ahead of you. As the
17	taxpayer of this state, I certainly appreciate your
18	willingness to serve on these type of commissions.
19	I have the privilege of representing
20	Pointe Royale which is 953 owners. We have five pools and
21	an irrigation system on our golf course. You have heard a
22	few comments from one of our owners regarding some of his
23	issues as a resident and his issues in my opinion are
24	similar to other residents in the area. I wanted to address
25	some of the concerns I have when it comes to the

Page 23 infrastructure. 2 Nobody like rate increases. something we all face. It's something that is to be 3 expected. I assume in a world we live in one of the 4 5 requests I ask is we keep that rate as least possible. I would also suggest that in the future if, and I emphasis 6 7 the word if, if rate increases are suggested, that it's a 8 more of a ramped-up process than holding tight for many 9 years and then springing on what seems to be a rather large 10 rate. 11 Several cities I've worked in the past we have had those type of experiences where you hold the line 12 13 for many years and then you have to finally rate increase 14 and it's usually substantial. I think if you educate 15 owners, if we also have a community that better understands usage and that would be more of a good steward, I mean it 16 works both sides. 17 My concerns with the infrastructure as I 18 mentioned earlier, Taney County has seen explosive growth 19 20 over the years and with that we've modernized our tactics. Our building tactics, our procedures. We have regulations 21 22 in place where in the past it wasn't the case. I have seen situations where there was a question of where the line was 23 actually located. Now we're in an area where there was some 24 accelerated growth. We're in a time when previous owners 25

1	were quickly trying to respond to that infrastructure
2	growth. There's a question of where specific lines are
3	versus where they should be; the condition of those lines
4	and the accessibility. The biggest concern I have is the
5	future cost of those infrastructure repairs. If we would
6	have to role them into additional rate increases.
7	As far as what I have seen out of the
8	local office here, now I've only been employed with Pointe
9	Royale for a little over a year but I've got 11 years
10	experience in the area dealing with them and for a city. I
11	can tell you I have seen a wide difference in how they
12	respond to your needs now versus in the past. I believe the
13	office has ran more professionally than it has been in the
14	past and I believe their response time is quicker than it
15	has been in the past.
16	I have stood out in those ditches with
17	Todd when we were trying to solve a problem, and he was as
18	vocal as I was when it came to how we fixed the problem.
19	But at the end of the day, we were able to tackle the issue
20	together.
21	But the biggest thing to me is the
22	condition of the infrastructure, where it's located and the
23	issues we may face in the future and the effect it may have
24	on the rates. Thank you.
25	JUDGE WOODRUFF: Are you representing

Homeowners' Association; is that what Pointe Royale is?  MR. RANKIN: Yeah, I serve as the general manager for the community for the COA, the FOA and then under the POA there is a golf community of approximately 953 properties. A little over 850 and some change owners.  COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I don't have any questions. Thank you very much for coming.  MR. RANKIN: Thank you.  JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anyone else wish to testify?  I don't see any other hands going up.  So at this time I will just thank you all for coming out this evening and with that we are adjourned.  (Hearing concluded at 7:05 p.m.)  (Hearing concluded at 7:05 p.m.)		Page 25
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1	Page 26 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER
2	
3	I, TRACIE BRUMLEY, a Certified Court Reporter
4	within and for the State of Missouri, do hereby certify that
5	the witness whose testimony appears in the foregoing
6	deposition was duly sworn by me; that the testimony of said
7	witness was taken by me to the best of my ability and
8	thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction; that I
9	am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of
10	the parties to the action in which this deposition was
11	taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of
12	any attorney or counsel employed by the parties thereto, nor
13	financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of the
14	action.
15	
16	
17	
18	Certified Court Reporter
19	in and for
20	The State of Missouri
21	
22	
23	
24	
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