

*Jim*

ORIGINAL

Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Price  
18603 E. White Wing Dr.  
Rio Verde, AZ 85263

47 ✓ *Poc*



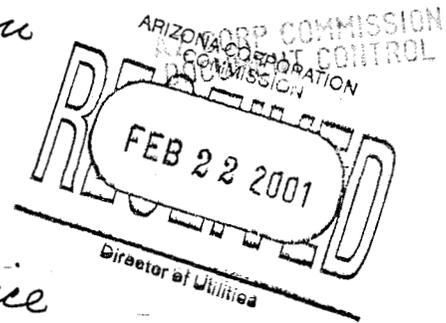
0000015793

15 February 2001

RECEIVED

2001 FEB 22 P 2:53

TO: Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 W. Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996



FROM: Dr. and Mrs. William E. Price  
18603 E. White Wing Dr.  
Rio Verde, AZ 85263

RE: Hearing re: Water and Sewer Rate Increase.

My wife and I are residents of Rio Verde, AZ and customers of Rio Verde Utilities Company. We are concerned about the proposed rate increases, and completely agree with the enclosed copy of our local newspaper and the arguments listed by the Utilities Committee of the Rio Verde Community Association. We hope that an amicable settlement can be obtained for all concerned.

William E. Price, M.D.

Arizona Corporation Commission  
DOCKETED

FEB 22 2001

DOCKETED BY *CRP*

"Happily Ever After" Didn't Happen" For reservations, call Dorothy Wolf, 471-3809.

AA: Mondays, 8 a.m., Oasis Conference Room B. Call 602-264-1341 for meetings outside Rio Verde.

**OTHER:**

**Sympathy:** To family and friends of Myrna Hawks who passed away January 24. Memorials to the American Cancer Society, 2929 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85016.

**Thanks:** Helen and Ted Swift express their sincere thanks for the sympathy and support offered following the loss of their 38-year-old son, Todd, on January 13. His widow, Tammy, and daughters, Tara Marie and Taylor, also express their gratitude to all the thoughtful Rio Verde friends and neighbors who generously helped create the education fund for Todd's daughters.

**Habitat for Humanity:** Habitat Ground Breaking is 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 3. We need workers and spectators. Workers leave Oasis at 7 a.m. Spectators – it will take you about 1 hour to get there. Maps are available at the Oasis. Come meet the family.

**Hello Broadway Trip:** April 18 – 23. For information call Phebe Smith, 471-1917. x3

**Village Green:** Hours: Mon-Fri, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat –Sun, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Publisher/Editor:

Jack Hale

Reporter:

Linda Heffer

## WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASE HEARING

### Corporation Commission Hearing Date – Feb. 13, Feb 21 or Both?

Rio Verde Utilities Company filed a request for an increase in rates. The Arizona Corporation Commission issued a procedural order setting a "hearing" date on the request for February 13. The Commission's Hearing Office on September 1 changed the hearing date to February 21. Because of a combination of errors we were not notified. There will now be two opportunities for customers to express their views: Tuesday, February 13 and Wednesday, February 21. Because the Commission is an elected body, your personal letters to them, and presence at whichever hearing date becomes convenient for you is very important.

Because the Commission's offices are in downtown Phoenix, the Committee plans to provide bus transportation to the hearing on February 21 and car-pooling arrangements on February 13. The Committee has been assured that customers will have a full opportunity to voice their concerns. As currently planned, the bus will leave the Oasis about 8:30 a.m. and return after lunch. Please call the Association Office, 471-2068, to add your name to the attendance list.

The Utilities Company mailed a letter to their customers dated January 29 (Monday). The letter well states the Company rational for their requested increase in water and sewer rates. Your Utilities Committee will be mailing a similar letter next week stating your Association and Country Club positions.

- A. The Committee's position is quite simple. It feels that current customers should only have to pay for the cost of serving current customers. And that future customers should then bear their fair share of costs as they come on line over the next few years.
- B. The Company in their letter indicated that a utility rate case is "complex" and that is certainly true. Your Committee members have spent their careers dealing with much more "complex" utility financing and rate case matters than this one. The Committee has retained an Engineer/CPA to advise it on specific Arizona regulations and to testify on our behalf.
- C. Their original filing requested a 78% increase in water rates. In January, the Company voluntarily lowered the residential increase to a 45% residential increase. While they also lowered their total dollar increase request somewhat, they also increased the proposed rates to be charged for irrigation water used by your Country Club. Also, utility rates (and increases) are subject to a 7.1% Arizona Sales Tax.
- D. The Company requested a 37% increase in sewer rates and slightly increased this to a 38% increase in their subsequent request. They did make an appreciated 35% reduction in the value of the sewer plant only. However, no reduction was made in the sewage system cost overall to reflect "future" customer usage.
- E. The Company indicated that the case will cost them "over \$100,000 before all is determined". Rate case expenses become part of the Company costs, and to the extent the Commission deems reasonable, become part of the costs customers pay in their bills. A negotiated settlement with your Committee would simplify the hearing process and help hold down these costs to the Company and eventually to you, its customers.
- F. Seven years seems like a long time between price increases. However, it was the Company's decision to delay their increase request until it had completed its very large investments in the Tonto Verde area. Comparing "for profit" utility rate increases with "non profit" Association fees and Country Club dues increases sounds good but they are based upon entirely different cost factors.
- G. The part of the infrastructure "contributed" by the developer was essentially for the pipes under the streets. Developer contributions of this nature are Commission required as a standard practice for water and sewer companies. However, nothing has been "contributed" toward the much higher overall cost increases for wells, pumps, main supply and sewer lines, or the new storage tank.
- H. Your Utilities Committee feels that a negotiated "middle ground" settlement would be the fairest to current customers and would provide fair profits to the Company. Most importantly, it would be in the best interests of both the Rio Verde and Tonto Verde Communities to provide a harmonious united front by the Company and



**COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION:**

**Emergency Services:** For Fire – Medical – Sheriff, use 911. Non-emergency 945-6311.

**RVCA Board of Directors Meeting:** Thursday, February 15, 2001 at 8 a.m. in the Oasis Board Room.

**Annual Meeting:** The Annual Meeting of the Rio Verde Community Association is Thursday, March 15 at 9 a.m. in the Oasis. Mark your calendars.

**Phone #'s:** If you are new to Rio Verde or have had a telephone number change, please notify the Association Office with the number.

**Roadrunner News Deadline:** Normally it is 5 p.m. on Wednesday but sometimes it is earlier if the Publisher has other things to do, so do not wait until the last minute if you want to get something in.

**Lost Keys:** Have you lost your car/house keys? Chances are they may be in the basket on the counter outside the Association Office.

**Maricopa County Government: Eye to the Future – 2020.** Save the evening of March 8 to learn more about Maricopa County in the coming years. 7 p.m. at the Oasis.

**Oasis: Building:** Open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Spa hours are 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Pool hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pool is closed from 10 to 11 a.m. on M-W-F for the water work out class. The Rio Lane pool is open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE:**

**Decorative Gourds Class:** 1 to 5 p.m. Friday, February 16 in the Oasis Art Room. Margie Sullivan returns for another beginner's class in the art of making decorative gourds. This is a hands-on activity and participants will each have their own gourds to decorate. The cost is \$20. To register, call Jean Miller, 471-2501. Class size is limited, so call early. x2

**Baby Furniture:** There are now two request forms, one for baby furniture and one for toys. You can find these forms in the Post Office.

**COUNTRY CLUB:**

**Clubhouse:**

**Dining:**

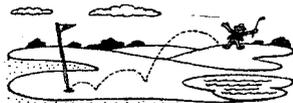
Reservations are necessary for dining in the Grill and Sunday breakfast. 471-1050. No reservations taken in the Pub. The menu is available from 4 – 8:30 p.m. Take out is available. Grill lunch service Monday – Friday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dinner Tuesday – Sunday.

**Events:**

**Valentine's Day Dinner Dance** February 14. Reservations are now being taken.

**Golf:**

**Events:**



**Men's Stroke Play Tournament:** February 5 and 7. Sign up in the Events Room.

**Hearts & Flowers Ladies Mixer:** Niners and 18-Hole Women, Thursday, February 15. Sign up in the Events Room.

**States Day Golf Tournaments:** See the clip boards in the Events Room for the format of each tournament and sign up. Dinner to follow – all are welcome.

February 10: Iowa – Kansas – Nebraska

February 17: Northwest– Minnesota – Wisconsin

March 17: Colorado–Illinois–Roundup & Eastern

March 20: Ohio – Michigan

**Women's 18-Hole Golf Association:** On Tuesday, February 6 we will be collecting for baby shower gifts for Darryl Janisse and Lisa Henderson of the Pro Shop

donation in the Alpha Box to Dorothy Webster, Nancy Segee or Jo Patterson.

**CHURCH:**

**Community:** Service, Sunday, 8:15 a.m. The Sermon February 4 will be, *I Am What I Am!*

**Catholic, St. Dominic's:** Mass, Sunday, 10 a.m., Community Church.

**Bible Study:** (see prior Roadrunner's for details) All classes are continuing and open to anyone. Come whenever you can.

**THINGS TO DO IN RIO VERDE:**

**February Hike:** Friday, February 9 to Siphon Draw



Trail in the Superstitions. See wild flowers and scenic views. This is an easy to moderate hike. Bring liquid, snack and \$2 for Park Fee. We will leave the Oasis at 9 a.m. and return by 2 p.m. There is no sign up, just show up. Questions, call

Bob Mason, 471-2451.

**Exercise Classes:** See prior Roadrunner's for details – all classes are at the Oasis.

**Tennis:** Member play starts at 9 a.m. "Coed" Tennis clinics, 9 a.m. Thursday and Friday, February 8 and 9. Mixer and Potluck at Listers Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 4 p.m.

**Rollerbladers:** Meets Saturday mornings 8 a.m. at the Oasis. Questions, call Joan Brunner, 471-7274.

**Gin Rummy:** Open Gin Rummy at the Oasis Card Room every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. or as soon as 4 players show up. Come after golf. Questions, call Les Scherschligt, 471-1311.

**Pinochle:** Wed, 1:30 p.m. at the Oasis. Everyone is welcome including new players. No reservations, just show up.

**Woodcarving Class:** The woodcarving classes meet Thursdays 1 to 4 p.m. in the Oasis Art Room. Beginner's welcome. Questions, call Bob Brooke 471-7231.

**Art League:** Mon, 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Oasis. Watercolor classes meet Thursdays from 9 to 12 a.m.

**Bridge:**

**Marathon:** The next Marathon Bridge is Thursday, February 8 at 9:30 a.m. There will be a buffet lunch at 11:15 a.m.

**Partners:** Partners Bridge at the Oasis on Thursdays at 7 p.m. No sign-up is required. Questions, call Bob or Sharon Barth, 471-4667.

**Men's:** Tuesday, 1 p.m. at the Oasis.

**Ladies Contract:** For reservations call Edith Washburn, 471-3456.

**Duplicate:** Each Monday at the Oasis. Arrive 11:45, play begins at 12:00. Jentra Barker, 471-1660, and Margaret Herman, 471-2503, are in charge for February.

**Rio Verde Ranch Cookouts:** Every Thursday night. Call Jan or Caren at 471-1962 for reservations.

**PLACES TO GO:**

**MEETINGS:**

**Wednesday Book Review Group:** The Wednesday Book Review Group will meet on February 21 at 3:30 p.m. in the Oasis Library. Book reviewed will be *Foreign Affairs* by Alison Lurie and a poem to share with the group. Everyone is welcome to attend. Questions, contact Carrie Walker at [carriewalkeraz@aol.com](mailto:carriewalkeraz@aol.com) or alpha box. x1



**Christian Women's Club:** Tuesday, February 13, 11:30 a.m. at the Rio Verde Country Club. Lunch is \$13.50 inclusive. The Musical Feature will be Larry and Peggy Linkin who will serenade us with love songs on the day before Valentine's Day. The speaker will be