

Town of Garfield

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After listening to the input from citizens over that last few weeks, the Town Council is proposing to enact the Utility Tax at the following rates: telephone – 4%, electricity – 4%, water/sewer/garbage – 6%. We would rather start the rate low and see where the budget is at in a year or two, instead of finding out the starting rate was too high. We finally were able to get in touch with the correct person at Avista, and we were able to figure the tax based on their gross receipts for the year. There is still the possibility the rate might raise in a few years, but for now, it will start low.

Also as additional help to the Current Expense fund, the Mayor and Council have decided not to collect our wages for the 2008 calendar year. This will save Current Expense \$4200. We will look at the budget at the end of the year and decide whether to collect wages for 2009, we might not.

The Council will vote to enact the tax at our meeting on Jan. 23rd. If you have any input or comments before then, please feel free to get in touch with any of us. Also we are going to try and cut down on the numbers of newsletters sent out during the year because of cost. We would like to set up an email list, so if you would like to be on the list, send an email to either pfaff93@earthlink.net, or garfield-town@completebbs.com and we will add you to the list. Because email is less expensive, we will be sending news more frequently via email. Since we know not everyone in town has email, there will still be 1-2 newsletters a year.

As before, we still have meetings with the auditor planned for this year, to again work through the budget and find additional costs to spread to the other funds. Our goal is to have the budget back in the black within two years.

Again, we thank you for your support.

Town of Garfield Mayor and Council