

**RESOLUTION NO. 380**

**A RESOLUTION CREATING AND FUNDING  
A WATER/SEWER BILL REDUCED RATE PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Stevensville, Montana (the "Town") pursuant to authority conferred by Montana Code Annotated (M.C.A.), Title 7, Chapter 13, Part 43, as amended (the "Act"), and other laws of the State of Montana, has established and presently owns and operates a municipal sewer system (the "System"); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Sections 7-13-4308 and 69-7-101, M.C.A., the Town has the power and authority to regulate, establish, and change, as it considers proper, rates, charges, and classifications imposed for utility services to its inhabitants and other persons served by the municipal systems. Rates, charges, and classifications must be reasonable and just; and

**WHEREAS**, the residents of the Town of Stevensville have requested at numerous Town Council meetings that such a program be created; and

**WHEREAS**, the Stevensville Town Council has determined that this program will meet the requirement that all rate payers pay essentially the same rates for water and sewer utilities; and

**WHEREAS**, a notice of public hearing was mailed to all users of the Town's System notifying them that it was the **intention** of the Town to increase the rates and charges for the System and notice of public hearing was published as required by Section 69-7-11 J, M.C.A. A public hearing was held on September 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Chambers of the Town Council, Town Hall, 206 Buck Street, Stevensville, Montana, for the purpose of hearing comments from the public on the sewer rate increase; and

**WHEREAS**, all persons appearing were given an opportunity to speak at the public hearing.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT**, by the Town Council (the "Council") of the Town of Stevensville, Montana, the Town Council adopts and establishes this program as shown in exhibit A.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, Resolution No. 303 (Help to Others) shall be rescinded and upon implementation of this program, those individuals currently enrolled in the Help to Others program shall cease to receive the benefit from that program.

Passed and adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Stevensville, Montana, this  
10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015.

**ATTEST:**

  
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Gene Mim Mack, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacy Bartlett, Town Clerk



## Utility Bill Reduced Rate Program

Reduced rates are available for water and sewer utilities provided by the Town of Stevensville. Customers are eligible for a discount on their water and/or sewer O & M bill if they are a low income, senior, or disabled adult living in a residence receiving a separate Town of Stevensville water or sewer O & M bill. **Note:** the rate reduction does not apply to your water and/or sewer bond charge(s).

The following table provides the age and income requirements to qualify for a discount:

Age	Income
62 +	\$28,000 or less
18 +	\$28,000 or less <b>AND</b> receive permanent Social Security Disability payments

### Rate Reduction

Qualified customers receive a reduction on their utility bill by these percentages:

Total Household Income	Percent Rate Reduction
0 - 50% of the qualifying income	75%
51% - 75% of the qualifying income	50%
76% - 100% of the qualifying income	25%

### Income

Single-family household income includes income from all persons living in the home. This includes income received from:

- ✓ Wages
- ✓ Retirement benefits
- ✓ Retirement income including IRA's,
- ✓ Social security
- ✓ Supplemental security income (SSI)
- ✓ Permanent social security disability income (SSDI)
- ✓ VA benefits
- ✓ Interest income from savings, bonds, annuities, etc.
- ✓ Gross rental income
- ✓ Gross business income
- ✓ Etc.

Copies of tax returns with all schedules and supporting documentation must be submitted.

If you are applying for a disability reduction, you must provide a current (less than three months old) statement of eligibility, plus the above requirements.

Contact Social Security (800.772.1213) to request benefit verification.



## Utility Bill Reduced Rate Program

### Homeowners and Renters

IF YOU ARE A RENTER and the Property Owners pays the utility bill on your behalf, and you are eligible for this program, the Property Owner must also certify that you rent has been reduced by the amount of the rate reduction. Please contact Town Hall for further information.

### Application Process

To make application for reduced rates, complete the Application for Rate Reduction on Utility Bills and mail or drop it off with a copy of your previous year's tax return, including all schedules and supporting documentation for *all members of your household* to:

#### Drop Off

206 Buck Street  
Stevensville, MT 59870

#### Mail

PO Box 30  
Stevensville, MT 59870-0030

### Notification of Change

Customers receiving rate reductions are required to notify the Utility Billing Department immediately when household income level changes, disability status changes, the house is sold, house is unoccupied, or the house is no longer the primary residence.

### Current Charge to Each User:

**\$1.52/mo.** To fund this program for the first year. The Council may adjust this charge annually based on the number of qualified participants and/or available funds.