

## Finally-The Final Order

Yes, it has finally arrived, the day we have all been patiently waiting for, and perhaps some of us like myself, impatiently for over four years. The Water/Sewer Rate Case Final Order has been issued as of December 12, 2019.

We have hesitated to announce this publicly only because there was no date-certain in the 71 page Final Order as to when the new rate schedule would take effect. The WBRG Committee is announcing it now because our attorneys have notified us that Double Diamond Utilities has stated that the new rate structure has been implemented for the January 2020 billing cycle.

Your Base Rate for a Water connection will be reduced from the current \$31.00 to \$17.19 per month. The Sewer Base Rate will be reduced from \$41.00 to \$19.69. This does not include the refunds that are owed to all White Bluff Ratepayers in a total amount estimated to be between \$500,000 and \$600,000. The schedules for refunds are due to be announced by Double Diamond Utilities within the next two weeks. By law DDU has the same amount of time to repay the overcharges as it took them to collect them. The look-back date is February 2018. That would indicate these refunds would be paid back over the next two years.

Let us all celebrate for the moment and hope that the new buyer of Double Diamond Utilities, Midway Water Utilities, will be much more pragmatic in their approach to doing business in our community. Also, a great deal of thanks is owed to those who so graciously contributed thousands and thousands of dollars to this monumental effort. If it weren't for you this outcome would not have been remotely possible.

WBRG Committee

John Bass

Marshall Snyder

Scott Shelton