

Public Service Commission - Mountain Sewer, Docket Number 11-097-03

From: Pedersen [REDACTED]
To: <psc@utah.gov>
Date: 4/25/2012 10:21 PM
Subject: Mountain Sewer, Docket Number 11-097-03

Re: Mountain Sewer
Docket Number 11-097-03

To the Utah Public Service Commission:

We are Managers of Turtle Shell Properties, owner of Unit # [REDACTED] Lakeside Village. We are a customer of Mountain Sewer and have been since 2003 or so, initially in Unit # [REDACTED]. We are writing to comment on the requested rate increase and special assessment for Mountain Sewer customers.

By our understanding, Mountain Sewer is requesting a significant increase in the "per door" rate, one that amounts to 159%. While we recognize that an increase is appropriate, as there have been no increases for a number of years, it seems to us that a sudden 159% increase is quite abrupt. A stepped approach whereby the rate increases gradually would be less burdensome and more fair to the customers of the company.

We also understand that Mountain Sewer is requesting a very large special assessment to cover some costs associated with the recent purchase of the company. This is very unreasonable from our standpoint as all outstanding issues and repairs, upgrades, and accounts receivable should have been accounted for on the balance sheet of the company and so would be, in our opinion, part of the negotiated sale price. To purchase a company and then immediately ask the customers to make up differences and shortfalls that were not dealt with in a purchase price negotiation is unfair and incongruous with reasonable business practices.

Furthermore, to ask the customers to help pay for any legal fees associated with issues that arose from the prior owner's malfeasance in running the company is unreasonable in the extreme. Those are issues to be dealt with between the former and the current owner and any potential creditor, and should not fall to the customers of the company to help clear up.

On a personal note, we have been directly and very negatively impacted by Mountain Sewer over the years, due to no less than three sewer back ups that have impacted our condominiums. The mistreatment that we have endured due to the poor management of the company have injured us directly from the clean-up required and also negatively impacted us when we sold our first unit (# [REDACTED]) and will further impact us when the time comes to sell unit # [REDACTED]. The issues that led to the floods were aired before the Weber County Commission and the Commission thereafter required the sewer company to have an employee personally

and directly check the status of the system twice a day. To add to these horrible experiences by requiring us to cover further expenses associated with the poor management of the company that led up to its sale would be adding insult to injury. For our part, we have never missed a payment to the sewer company for its services, be they bad or good.

Please deny the request for a special assessment and monies to help cover any legal fees related to Mountain Sewer and apply a tiered methodology to any rate increase that is felt to be necessary.

Thank you for considering our thoughts.

Sincerely:

Mary Ellen Domeier and Peder J. Pedersen, Managers, Turtle Shell Properties, LLC