



# Working Session

## Minnesota Community Solar Garden Program



*a subsidiary of*





# Executive Summary

- ❑ In 2013, Minnesota legislation directed Minneapolis-based utility, Xcel Energy, to create a program for community solar gardens (“CSGs”). The program is regulated by the MN Public Utility Commission
  - The CSG will not be located on your premises and is professionally maintained
  - Under the program Xcel Energy remains the City of North Mankato’s electricity provider
  - Bill credits are issued on your Xcel Invoice based on your subscription amount
  - \$0 upfront cost, no upfront investment is required and no upfront fees are charged
- ❑ The City of North Mankato will save 1 cent/kWh for 25 years.
- ❑ Subscribing to 689,100 kWhs will generate an estimated 25 year cost savings of \$162,324.
- ❑ The subscription is transferrable to other facilities in case of a facility closure. North Mankato may terminate this agreement in year 5 with a 5 year replacement period. Estimated first 5 year savings: \$34,112 (10 year: \$67,380)
- ❑ The City of North Mankato is demonstrating a leadership position in supporting the environment and renewable energy.
- ❑ Gibbon Solar Garden schedule
  - Energization with Xcel – June 28th
  - Acceptance Test with Xcel—July 10th

# City Owned Solar Array

- ☐ No land available in Xcel territory
- ☐ Explored 2 possible rooftop solar arrays—City Hall and the Recycling Center
- ☐ City Hall
  - Roof capacity: 51 kW—63,750 kWhs
  - Average annual usage: 358,280 kWhs
  - Cover 17.8% of Average Annual usage
  - Cost: \$120,000 (assuming no financing)
  - Payback: 23 years
- ☐ Recycling Center
  - Roof capacity: 60 kW—75,000 kWhs
  - Average annual usage: 84,560 kWhs
  - Cover 88.7% of Average Annual usage
  - Cost: \$141,000 (assuming no financing)
  - Payback: 23 years



# Other Discussion Items

- ☐ **Grid and Transmission Line Discussion**
  
- ☐ **Value of Solar Program**
  - **Need eligible land**
  - **Limited to 1MW—40% only 400kW**
  - **Half cent vs. one cent savings--\$60,000 savings over 25 years**
  - **Current Proposal savings--\$162,000**
  
- ☐ **Xcel Rates, Bill Credits, Subscription Rate**
  - **Summary**

# Xcel Bill Credit—Novel Energy Solutions(NES) Subscription Rate Example

	1000 kWhs usage	Reduce usage by 100 kWh
	<u>1000 kWh Usage</u>	<u>900 kWh Usage</u>
Xcel charge/kWh	\$0.09/kWh	\$0.09/kWh
kWh used	<u>1000 kWh</u>	<u>900 kWh</u>
Electric usage charge	\$90	\$81
Other Charges(taxes,service fees)	<u>\$20</u>	<u>\$20</u>
<b>Total Bill</b>	<b>\$110</b>	<b>101</b>
Xcel Bill Credit	\$0.11/kWh	\$0.11/kWh
Subscription size assumption	<u>1000 kWh</u>	<u>1000 kWh</u>
<b>Xcel Bill Credit</b>	<b>\$110</b>	<b>\$110</b>
MNCS Sub. Rate(Note 1)	\$0.10/kWh	\$0.10/kWh
Subscription size assumption	<u>1000 kWh</u>	<u>1000 kWh</u>
<b>Pay NES</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$100</b>
Note 1: 1 cent subscription rate below Xcel Bill Credit	Pay Xcel nothing--Solar Garden Savings: <b>\$110-\$100= \$10</b>	Subscription doesn't change so you still save \$10 but by reducing electric consumption you save an additional \$9( <b>\$110-\$101</b> )



# Estimated Annual Savings—689,100 kWhs (530.1 kW)

Year	Project Total Energy Production (kWh)	Subscriber Energy Production (kWh)	Bill Credit Rate (\$/kWh)	Estimated Total Bill Credit (\$/yr)	Subscription Rate (\$/kWh)	MNCS Subscription (\$/yr)	Estimated Annual Savings
1	5,980,000	689,100	\$0.12515	\$86,241	\$0.11515	\$79,350	\$6,891
2	5,950,100	685,655	\$0.12804	\$87,792	\$0.11804	\$80,936	\$6,857
3	5,920,350	682,226	\$0.13101	\$89,380	\$0.12101	\$82,558	\$6,822
4	5,890,748	678,815	\$0.13407	\$91,006	\$0.12407	\$84,218	\$6,788
5	5,861,294	675,421	\$0.13720	\$92,669	\$0.12720	\$85,915	\$6,754
6	5,831,988	672,044	\$0.14043	\$94,372	\$0.13043	\$87,652	\$6,720
7	5,802,828	668,684	\$0.14374	\$96,115	\$0.13374	\$89,428	\$6,687
8	5,773,813	665,340	\$0.14714	\$97,898	\$0.13714	\$91,245	\$6,653
9	5,744,944	662,014	\$0.15064	\$99,723	\$0.14064	\$93,103	\$6,620
10	5,716,220	658,704	\$0.15423	\$101,591	\$0.14423	\$95,004	\$6,587
11	5,687,639	655,410	\$0.15792	\$103,502	\$0.14792	\$96,948	\$6,554
12	5,659,200	652,133	\$0.16171	\$105,458	\$0.15171	\$98,937	\$6,521
13	5,630,904	648,872	\$0.16561	\$107,460	\$0.15561	\$100,971	\$6,489
14	5,602,750	645,628	\$0.16961	\$109,508	\$0.15961	\$103,051	\$6,456
15	5,574,736	642,400	\$0.17373	\$111,603	\$0.16373	\$105,179	\$6,424
16	5,546,862	639,188	\$0.17796	\$113,747	\$0.16796	\$107,356	\$6,392
17	5,519,128	635,992	\$0.18230	\$115,941	\$0.17230	\$109,581	\$6,360
18	5,491,532	632,812	\$0.18676	\$118,186	\$0.17676	\$111,858	\$6,328
19	5,464,075	629,648	\$0.19135	\$120,483	\$0.18135	\$114,186	\$6,296
20	5,436,754	626,500	\$0.19606	\$122,832	\$0.18606	\$116,567	\$6,265
21	5,409,571	623,367	\$0.20090	\$125,236	\$0.19090	\$119,003	\$6,234
22	5,382,523	620,250	\$0.20588	\$127,696	\$0.19588	\$121,493	\$6,203
23	5,355,610	617,149	\$0.21099	\$130,212	\$0.20099	\$124,040	\$6,171
24	5,328,832	614,063	\$0.21624	\$132,786	\$0.20624	\$126,645	\$6,141
25	5,302,188	610,993	\$0.22164	\$135,419	\$0.21164	\$129,310	\$6,110
Estimated Total Savings							\$162,324

# Contacts



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## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 11, 2018  
**To:** John Harrenstein  
**From:** Kevin McCann, Finance Director  
**Re:** Automated Meter Reading Questionnaire Responses

### BACKGROUND

In April of 2018, a questionnaire was sent to North Mankato residents asking them if they would be willing to pay to upgrade from manual read water meters to automatic read water meters. A total of 5,335 questionnaires were mailed to North Mankato residents in the April utility bill. Residents also had the option to fill out the questionnaire online with their utility bill payment. A total of 1,388 questionnaires were completed for a response rate of 26%. The results can be seen in **Attachment A**.

#### Automated Meter Reading Questionnaire Findings:

- 536 of 1,388 (39%) of those who responded said they would be willing to pay a monthly surcharge per meter for automatic water meter reading and 852 or 1,388 (61%) were not willing to pay to upgrade to automatic read meters.
- 517 of the 536(96%) respondents willing to pay a monthly surcharge were willing to pay between \$3 and \$7 per month for automatic read water meters.
- Respondents in favor of the automatic meters find it to be a contemporary service delivery model that adds convenience and to reading as well as improving water consumption practices. Favorable respondents to the new service and surcharge also indicate this service is typical in other cities.
- Respondents not in favor of the automatic meters were concerned with costs being too high (this sentiment was especially present from respondents with more than one meter), the cost of interest, a lack of return on investment, and find reading their own meters to be simple and easy. Some willing to pay for the meter up front versus paying a monthly fee, which includes interest.

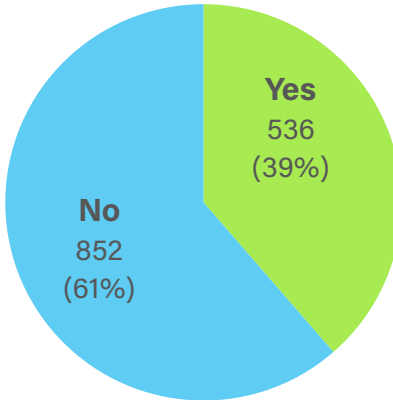
### RECOMMENDATION

Conclusions regarding the feedback from the survey are wide ranging but largely indicate a lack of interest on the part of residents to pay a surcharge for the service of automatic reading. A secondary consideration the City Council may make is whether or not there was a lack of interest in the service itself or simply the cost of the service (especially utilizing the surcharge system).

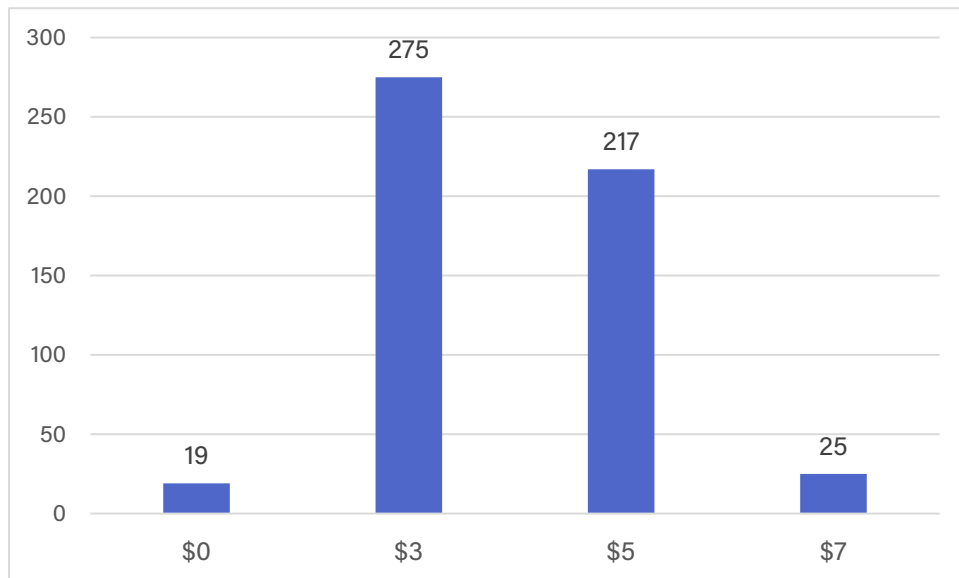


### Automated Meter Reading Questionnaire Responses

1. Would you be willing to pay a monthly surcharge per meter for automatic water meter reading? (1,388 Responses)



2. If yes to question 1, how much would you be willing to pay per meter per month? (536 Responses)



### 3. Questions/ Comments?

#### **Answered Yes Comments (pages 2-11):**

- I believe that the convenience outweighs the cost for me the customer.
- Quit skewing your survey to scare people into not wanting automated meters. This has been the only city, big or small, that I've lived in that has had manual readings. Get your stuff together and automate this stuff.
- Let's do it!
- I'm tired of reading meters every month
- I feel this is a good upgrade
- I am STRONGLY in favor of automated meters and would gladly pay an extra fee for the convenience!
- "Ideally, I wouldn't want to pay any additional amount for automatic meter reading but I also understand that we don't live in a perfect world and this is a system that will cost the city money. I would be willing to pay a couple extra bucks a month to automate this process. Laura & Drew Smith 701 South Ave."
- We understand that this automated reading of the meters would be a convenience; however, we are in our mid-seventies and on social security. We most likely would not be here in our home in that 10-15 year span. Being on social security does limit our ability to keep up with the increasing costs to stay in our home. If it is decided that the city will implement the plan, we hope the charge will be kept at a minimal amount to help the seniors in our city. Or perhaps a special pricing be put in place for those over the age of 70. Thank you for considering special pricing for the senior citizens.
- I think this is a wonderful idea. I have 8 meters I have to read a month to report, it would help cut down time and mistakes that may happen.
- Hope this approved.
- I support the idea of automatic meter reading because I support all three benefits listed on the brochure you sent with this month's water bill.
- The rate of \$5 and \$4 for a second meter is very high, it only takes a minute to for me to read the meters so that would be like \$9 a minute to read a meter with your automated system. I think \$3 for both is more reasonable
- This might be a hard sell up front, but in 2 years or less I predict no one will be even be thinking about it anymore. It's a much more effective way to manage our water resources with a long-term payback that doesn't reduce services we're able to provide now. We will not



regret instituting this change, but if we wait a few more years and deliberate the change again, we will definitely regret we didn't move forward now.

- "Please do this. It's ridiculous that we have to call in every month. By far my biggest complaint with this city. Thank you"
- I feel \$4 per meter or \$8 total for two meters would be an ok charge. Go over \$8 total and that gets too much for the convenience.
- I was surprised when I moved here that the meters were not automatic reading. It seems that North Mankato is far behind the times when it comes to automation? I'm also very surprised to see that you feel a surcharge and interest should be paid by the homeowner? Again it seems that North Mankato is far behind when it comes to their utility services, and the best answer you have is to charge interest to your customers? How about we skip a water slide or park and put the money into upgrading the infrastructure which would benefit everyone not just a part of the population.
- We need this - reading every month is inconvenient.
- I believe the cost is too high. If you calculate it out using \$5 for 15 years it comes out to be \$900. What is the cost of the unit for each meter? Could city workers install them to save money?
- I would be willing to pay \$3 surcharge monthly
- This would be a good time to upgrade very old meters...
- But what is the total cost per household? (detailed cost of installing, interest and meter.) What is the upfront cost? If broke for no fault on me who covers this cost? With wireless will you offer a paperless form payment to defer some cost of new meters? If so how much? If not WHY?
- My answers assume the surcharge covers the total cost of installation and future expenses. That is, there are no hidden costs.
- this would be a wonderful convenience. With our older eyes, it's getting hard to read our old meters.
- The two compelling reasons for us is 1) This would be good for those that with disabilities that make it difficult to read and 2) We had not thought of it, but providing a capability for staff to monitor mismatches in meter readings ago locate waste is worth it by itself
- Does the estimated surcharge include potential labor savings, if any?
- "Why have interest charge? How prepay? How much?"

- "Would like breakdown of estimated costs. cost of meter? cost of installation? interest rate for 'payment plan' Are there grants available to reduce the local costs of this project? Could the City subsidize the costs of this project with other funds?" Automatic meter reading is not a priority for me but if it is a better way for the city we have no objection.
- if cheaper to pay upfront. would be willing to pay for meter
- Automated water meter readings would be much more convenient, as well as bringing North Mankato up to standard in this day of age.
- I am willing to pay extra but that IF the city can actually stay in or under budget on this project.
- Don't mind reading my own meter. So if it didn't go automated I would be fine with that. Likewise if it did go automated I would be ok with that as well.
- What would the prepay amount be? Is this similar to something assessed on our taxes - need to pay off when/if we sell our home?
- Maybe - I don not need 2 meters - Can I get it changed to 1?
- I have two meters, would like to see a \$3 charge for a longer period of time. Thank you.
- 1. Have you solicited more than one bid for this work?
- Is \$5 the only cost for this change in service? Will this cost cover the cost of changing to automatic meters? ie installation etc? Who will do the work involved? Who will pay for any repair or replacement? Who owns the meter?
- \$1
- Hello - Since I submit my meter reading on line, I did not mail the meter survey, but would like to offer my preferences. I would appreciate having the new meters. At the current time my meter is quite fogged up and very difficult to read. I was told that we would have to pay for a new meter ourselves, so I would really like to avoid that expense, and am not sure why that is the homeowners responsibility. I would be willing to pay \$5 to \$7 per month for the new meters. Thank you.
- I feel like we live in the stone age every time I submit my meter reading. Please get this implemented as soon as possible, "Yes, Yes, a million times yes" - My wife.
- The City needs to keep up with technology - Hope everyone else agrees!
- How would the meters be read? Would you have to change the meters? Will you be digging up my yard like they did from the gas company when they went to automated meter reading?



- We are very happy to hear that this is being considered!!
- What up front costs would homeowners incur? Will there be a long term admin. savings by going to AMR? What specific costs go into this? Meter replacement, hardware, software, etc?
- $3 \times 2 = 6$
- Depending on the price I'd be very interested.
- City I moved in from did this years ago & there was no cost to the customers.
- It would alleviate the cumbersome of trying to read some meters due to placement of meter
- I really don't mind my reading my meter.
- This would be wonderful! It's my main complaint with living in North Mankato. Thank you :)
- Does the \$3 - \$5 per meter cover just the software and reading instruments or does it also cover a new water meter? Will we have to pay for a new meter?
- great idea - thank you :)
- It should be about time to have an automated meter. Towns smaller than No. Mankato already have the technology.
- "1.) Are there that many errors with customers reading their meters? 2.) You still have to send out a bill don't you?"
- Yes Yes or Whatever it takes
- Thank you for asking
- \$3 and no more
- Willing to pay only if acquiring AMRs from local company (Itron)
- "- Make it 15 yrs (\$6) total would be just fine. The meter for the outside of my house - is only run 6 months out of the year"
- Should be a set cost. If you pay the payments there shouldn't be any interest added on to be paid by the homeowner.
- I'd welcome it.
- Currently you charge \$3 if a water meter reading is not submitted. It only makes sense that you add a \$3 surcharge for automated meter readings.

- As explained on your examples on the other side of this paper, changing to the automated meter would not be a difficulty for us.
- Great plan!
- Would be nice to come into the twenty-first century with this!
- Do inform, when this would go into effect??
- I guess I would pay extra - I've lived in N Kato going on 24 years haven't had to read meters for gas or electricity & couldn't believe it's taking so long for this. I'm a single senior on a fixed income - prefer the lowest amount possible.
- Bi Monthly Available?
- How much is the full price and total cost? What if I want to pay in full?
- Up to \$10.00 I'm closing on a home in North Mankato next month but struggled with the decision whether to buy in Mankato because they already have this. I'm 61 and intend to stay in my new home for as long as possible. I already need a magnifier glass. At some point I would need an electric stair chair.
- This is an excellent idea and should be implemented in North Mankato.
- Good Idea!
- Reluctantly
- So I presume a "new" meter would be involved - aka replacing the old one?
- Would the system have to be replaced in 15 years or could it be maintained to extend the life of it?
- Why do people have a problem reading their meters?
- Why would my bill jump to 92.27?
- I have to pay an online fee for my "convenience" already anyways instead of mailing a check.
- \$3.00 a meter is what I would be willing to pay! Anything above that is too expensive in my estimation.
- We like this idea.
- I like the idea
- What would be the charge or cost of the meters up front?



- Would the city put another meter in or is the cost on us to install another one?
- @ \$5 per meter, my bill would go up \$10 per month. \$5 per household still seems high. The gas & electricity are auto so it's time for water to catch up. It saves gas to not deliver mail or drop off the bill. Maybe waive the monthly surcharge for auto payments. I love the idea of automatic water meter reading.
- We don't mind having to read the meter but having it read automatically would be nice.
- Excellent Idea!
- I have two meters (one labeled "outside" that uses no water and probably never will). I have had zero amount used for the meter since I moved in over a year ago. I would hope that if you plan to charge, there would not be an added charge for that meter! Thanks
- Would LOVE to have this service!
- Would be more interested in avoiding interest payments. Will labor savings from less manual tracking and entry be used for other civic improvements or efficiencies? Actual cost per residence (not monthly, but total) \$600-\$900?
- Yes, but keep the monthly costs down for we, like a lot of people, are on a fixed income. Thanks.
- As long as the cost varies with the amount of water used, it would be a satisfactory and welcome change. Glad we are going to do it!!
- Please add automated water reading. \$5 a month is a small price to pay to avoid the inconvenience of having to report every month.
- Would you allow a senior credit for a portion of meter surcharge. For example: a \$1.00 or \$2.00 credit.
- It would be a great convenience to be able to manage utilities through a website.
- Yes to E-Meter!
- If the penalty for not turning in a meter reading is \$3, I would be willing to pay that much for an automated reading.
- Is there an installation charge? If so, this may make my decision different.
- I would rather make 1 or 2 large payments & then be done with this charge.
- Time to get this done. :)
- Yes depends on how much. My bill is pretty darn high. \$0 Low my bill is pretty high already with all additions.

- Great Idea
- Do not want to prepay. Like the idea of catching water leaks, since had one by the old water meter and did not catch it until late in the evening.
- How does the automatic water meter reader catch leaks?
- Keep the surcharge as low as possible so people will approve.
- We are both in the 80's and on very limited income
- How much is prepay for the meter?
- There really is no benefit to us to have an automated meter but would be willing to have on installed if it is of benefit to most families.
- This would be great! Hope it goes through! Reading the meter is every month is a nuisance.
- It's about time. Automatic would be great.
- Elec & Gas are already this way.
- If this happens, would like to have the amount taken out of my checking account if possible.
- Long overdue!
- Do this!!!
- This along with automatic bill pay online would be the best in terms of service and convenience. Automatic meter reading should have been in place years ago, but better late than never. Definitely better for accuracy since I don't always read the meter on the same day and time. Would this mean new meters installed at the expense of customers?
- We would be willing to read our own meter.
- I would be fine with paying a monthly surcharge, minimal charge, but do NOT feel the interest portion s/b placed on homeowners...
- 2nd meter should be cheaper
- Great idea to change to automatic readers.
- You should have done this 10-20 years ago and/or N. Kato Mkto work together. I had it in Mkto very nice, no screwing around with paper work.
- "What is the prepayment fee? Does this transfer with the person who paid it, or does it remain at the current address? Offer a few prepayment options - in full, quarterly, semi-annual. Then what is the savings to me?"

- We are on fixed income. Any surcharge would be a hardship.
- "1) After the surcharge expires, how long would the meter be expected to last? 2) If installed, we would have to do nothing but pay the bill, is that correct? 3) How much would we save on interest charges if we prepay?"
- I fully support this. Technology affords the ability to do this. I suspect NM is quite behind the times on this - considering similar markets. Long overdue. Thank you. I paid my bill electronically.
- If we prepay - then would the monthly be reduced ie \$3-\$5 range?
- I would be willing to pay \$3 - \$5 for the automated water readings.
- I am for the automatic reader. I never can remember to read it. Worth the \$ for my family :)
- It is hard for me to read my meter so I definitely would appreciate this service at either charge (3 or 5)
- Just as cheap as possible of course.
- I would hope you could guarantee that the radio transmission of the water meter would no interfere with any other radio transmissions in our home. ie ham radio, satellite radios. Thank you.
- Is the monthly charge in addition to a new meter or can we prepay entire amount and not have anything added monthly?
- What's the total cost per household including interest over 15 yrs?
- As a employee of CenterPoint in EMS division (energy measurement services), I was part of original team that started installing Itron automated instruments in 2004. Waseca came 1st, N. Mankato came starting in 2007-8. Have installed thousands. Starting in 2012, I was lead investigator for any instruments not working correctly (residential, commercial & industrial). Any questions, maybe I can help. Retired Dec of 2017, so have time to help.
- I think these meters need replacing. I am all for the automated meter install. What would be the pay out for resident that do not want to pay installments?
- Yes! This is a GREAT idea! \*Count me "In"!\*
- I have to spend 10 minutes using a hair dryer on my meter just to read it. I would gladly pay \$3/mo to avoid that inconvenience.
- Its my opinion this is long overdue.
- Thank you for all you do :)



- but how does it work? need more details. thank you.
- Why would I be paying interest on a service that you are providing to me?
- Thank you!
- That will be so nice for me. Because every month I have to have my family come over and go downstairs to rite down the meter readings because I am in a wheelchair. So if we get it soon, that will be so much better for me.
- Yes - to the automated meters!
- Please do this! :)
- More likely to pay a fee for a meter made in USA!
- This is a good idea. For me & my eye sight is poor. It's just another expense added to our billing. What's a person to do?
- I don't want to pay though. My bill is already high enough.
- Why would there be interest charges? That is my biggest concern. That & the example ups my bill by \$9
- "I'm 84 yrs old & may not live 15 or even 10 more yrs. I'd gladly pay for the meter outright, I think. What would that cost me? How about a deal for paying cash in advance??
  - 180 mo @ \$3/mo = \$540
  - 180 mo @ \$5/mo = \$900
  - 120 mo @ \$5/mo = \$600
  - 120 mo @ \$3/mo = \$360"
- What is the actual cost of the new meters for those that may want to pay up front?
- I'd pay but I don't need it. You do what you think is right - I just don't need it. I put the reading in on-line. Really easy.
- Pay what's necessary. Would be nice to not worry about reading meter while gone for extended time.
- If new meters are necessary - OK. I object to paying interest on a meter that I'm being charged for - that makes no sense.
- With all the stuff in my utility room, it's very hard to read my meters. I also fear a leak would not be caught. I hope North Mankato will be able to get automatic readings!

- It would be worth it to have the meter cost about as much as a late fee. Could there be an auto meter for the in-house water while the outside water meter could be entered by homeowners every few months? It doesn't change in the winter anyway.
- Would love it! Our meter is hard to read.
- I appreciate the convenience, but \$60 seems high for fixed income people.
- What would be the charge to prepay for the service...pay in one amount and not spread out over 10-15 years with interest charges?
- I would love automated meter reading!! Makes being out of town at that time easier! Thanks for looking into the cost.
- Why would it cost so much every month to have an automatic computerized meter reading system? Your proposed \$5 for the first meter and second meter charge of \$4 monthly seems VERY MUCH OVERSTATED !! CRAZY HIGH!!
- City needs the technology.
- "I am in favor of the meter proposal mostly for the convenience and the accuracy of new meters. I believe there may be many older meters still in service in the community that may not accurately read. I would like to offer the below comments. The city should consider informing residents that new meters could be more accurate and may result in an increase in their bill. Older meters have a tendency to run slower, not higher. The higher accuracy meters should increase revenue for the city especially with the larger commercial meters. If the larger meters are not part of this proposal then I hope the city has a testing program for these meters to insure they are reading accurately. I would also offer if not done so already that city staff contact other cities to learn what worked and didn't work with their changes in metering systems. There are a number of communities that had some real problems with a change of this nature. One final thought with the proposal is to offer residents a totally paperless option. I would assume this would provide some cost savings."
- Do not want a added each month payment – thinking about a up front payment for machine if not too large.
- My meter is in such an awkward place I can't read it. I'm 78 years old with back and knee problems so therefore I can't bend very well & walk up and down stairs. I'd very much appreciate my meter being read. My social security is only \$677 per month. So I am just surviving I guess but this would be a great help. (Sharon Harison)
- Thanks for asking
- Definitely feel this is a necessary upgrade! \$3-5 would be ok.

### **Answered No Comments (Pages 12- 44):**

- I would rather pay more for improved water quality in North Mankato. The water is too hard and has tons of lime in it. That takes first priority rather than automated meters.
- No added charges please!
- This is a significant additional expense per year and over the involved time frame. The aggregate cost increase isn't justified. We elect to continue to read our meters and submit the information on a monthly basis.
- I am not in favor of raising rates to pay for automatic water meter reading.
- While I think it would be convenient, I am not willing to pay for the service. It doesn't take me that long to look at the meter and record the numbers online.
- I don't bother to read the meters by myself.
- It sounds like a waste of money
- What a complete waste of \$3-4 million dollars!! The 3 "primary reasons" for going to this are in NO WAY worth spending the millions it will take to convert over - NO WAY!! And like every single added on user fee, this will never expire and will remain on everyone's bill forever. Please do not go down this horrible wasteful spending path. When looking at where North Mankato ranks in Utility Rates, if this was added on we would be right near the top for cost per month - not worth it!
- The benefit is nowhere near the cost for residents with existing installations.
- It is not a problem for us to read our own meter. In our opinion this would be a high cost to pay for this change and totally unnecessary. That amount of money could be used for something more beneficial for North Mankato residents.
- "1. it eliminates jobs. 2. it makes the cities job easier, faster, , while still raising the cost of monthly service"
- "While I support automation, I do not support this proposal because I do not understand how there is no cost savings. But instead, a cost increase.
- Right now, I pay for my envelope, stamp and time to read my two meters. This is a minimal cost, less than a dollar per month. Under this proposal, It will cost me \$9/month to automate! Its just not making sense.
- Granted, there are upfront costs to purchase and install the automated system but would there also be reduction in staff, costs, etc.? That way, the increase in cost would be very temporary, lets say for one year until there was staff reductions, etc. Please explain to us why this is not the case.

- For \$9/month it just isn't worth the ""convenience"". Thank You."
- It takes 30 seconds for me to read a meter. Can't see paying \$60/year for that.
- This is too much money for some and for the value of this "service" If you go to automated meter reading the savings in data entry personnel should offset any cost of the new meters.
- Already pay an \$8.00 fee for water base which is ridiculous and then a water usage fee on top of that. No I don't want another surcharge. I am still able to read my own water meter for less than \$5.00.
- "what is the total cost for one automate meter if a customer wants to pay it all at one time?"
- what is the total cost for two automate meters if a customer wants to pay them all at one time?"
- For \$5.00 a month FEE I can read my own meter. Thank you!
- Not a problem to read my own meter once a month.
- It would be no benefit to me, so I would not want to pay extra. I would rather have you looking for additional ways we can reduce our costs - Not increase them.
- I feel I am more conscious of how much water I use if I have to do the reading myself
- The water fund should pay for these; not the city residents. Definitely NO interest charged either. City needs to cover all costs.
- City should pay for this. Plan to implement over 3 years.
- Seems very expensive and probably not an attractive ROI.
- "We're fine with entering our meter reading. If the automatic water reading would ever save us money, that's something we would be interested in.
- Thanks for all the great work North Mankato does! We enjoy living here!"
- How much are the meters? by my calculations the first one is between \$600.00 & \$900.00. the second one \$480.00 & 720.00. When Benco went to auto readers we were not charged for them.
- It isn't clear as to what "residents may prepay to avoid interest charges" means. We either pay the monthly fee or prepay what? How much?
- "the city of North Mankato should've had this system in place many years ago, there should not be any additional line item billing fees so as to put on a false pretense that the water rates are less than what they are or need to be. Water meter reading technology should be included in the normal operation and maintenance budget and the overall cost should be



prorated over the expected life cycle of the reading equipment. PS; this is a pretty poor way to present this to the citizens, there should be options for consideration not a question that's going to lead people to negative answer."

- "there is no need for this additional charge. There are 5 homes out of 9 on our court that have retired owners with fixed incomes, this is a burden to them.
- We have submitted our meter reading for over 27 years and do not what to change doing it. certainly not that hard to do.
- 15 years, that is \$900 per household. Way too expensive.
- More thought should be put into this to cut the cost drastically."
- At the \$9 estimate for our two meters, it amounts to a nearly 20% increase in our utility bill. Just way too much. I'd pay a buck, maybe two tops.
- - the questionnaire should have included an estimated complete cost to each home owner, not just a monthly. This makes for a skewed response on a questionnaire. For two meters this would be \$1080 to \$1620 without interest. The interest could push the total commitment over \$2k depending on how it is done.
- City should pay for it out of reserves/retained earnings.
- I think that's a hefty charge for that period of time. I also don't understand how it would work. We had a billing issue - put in the correct numbers and billed more than double what is normal and no one was at our residence for 2 of those weeks. The person we talked to was not helpful and said it was impossible to be wrong. Several months later we had an unexplained credit so we are not impressed with how the City is currently handling things and paying that amount does not sit well with us.
- "For one meter the cost would be \$600-\$900 at a minimum over 10-15 years. This is way to high for a meter to begin with, especially when we have working meters in place now. The benefits do not outweigh the costs here. It is not too much of a inconvenience to read a meter. My vote is a definite ""NO"". Terry Nere 417 LeHigh Ave"
- it's not hard to read a meter
- Put automated in new houses as they are being built and to replace meters as they go bad. Am single living on S.S. and not getting any raises there. Have 2 meters--one that is rarely used and the \$9 a month it would cost me is needed for better things. Does not take much time or effort to read meter and submit!!
- As a senior living on a fixed budget with two meters, I would be opposed to unnecessary price hikes. I have no problem reading and submitting my meter readings each month. Thank you.

- "What is the interest cost?
- What happens after ten years...is there a cost to maintain this then?
- Could individuals opt out? Thanks for exploring this and seeking input. I'm a bit reluctant at this time."
- I would replace when the meters start to become defective
- The price per month per meter seems exorbitant. I would rather take three minutes a month to read the meter and submit the information on-line.
- I have 2 meters. I certainly don't feel the inconvenience of writing down two numbers each month is worth \$9/month to me. This is nothing more than another \$100 tax on top of my existing \$5000 annual tax bill.
- This price should be absorbed by the city. Or at a minimum, offer the option for this cost to be "absorbed" at the time the property is sold. Or use that \$3 million that you want to waste on this project. What interest rate are you charging people? Stop stealing from the pockets of our residents. I am sick and tired of getting "taxed" on the front end, and on the back end. Start acting like a responsible adult. Run the city like you run your house, or get out!
- \$3-\$5 a month for 10-15 years seems like a lot for the convenience. Our water meter is in a location that makes it difficult to read so it would be nice but not necessary. If the city decides to replace the meters we would likely prepay to avoid the interest.
- It will not save me any money and it is doubtful it will save the city money. An expensive convenience!!! Not worth \$900.00+!
- How about Municipal WiFi for the Community?
- I strongly oppose having an automated meter in my home. Perhaps you should offer residents the automatic meter as an option but allow those who are opposed to stay with the old-fashioned variety meter. I do NOT want one more "internet of things" object in my home. I can read my own meter and submit the results. It is not inconvenient does not take any energy on my part. I also do NOT want to spend more money for my water/sewage/garbage etc. I have been trying to lower my bill and it seems like the city just wants to keep hiking it. I know how to monitor for leakage so that rationale is also meaningless to me.
- i can read it myself.
- I don't think it necessary. You didn't report what the interest would be or if when a person sells their home is the monthly payment transferred to the new owner or does it have to be paid off by the seller before a sale? I do like the part about catching leaks quickly, if it really works.

- I am against an auto meter for two reasons. 1.) It's not that hard and time consuming to go down and read the meter. I'm not that lazy, but unfortunately, I know others are and I'll end up paying for their laziness. 2.) Reading my meter gives me another reason to go down to the basement and check things such as pipes, filters, etc. for monthly routine maintenance.
- Although I agree with the idea and thought behind making this move, I am against the decision being made for a city-wide service. This should be up to the homeowner and homeowner alone. If they choose to have the convenience or are elderly or handicapped, they can choose to install the service and pay upfront or monthly. PLEASE do not force this on homeowners that are totally fine with checking their meter.
- Do online. So easy so why pay \$5/month
- \$5/month is typically a well more than 10% increase in our utility bill, our water bill is 15.72 this month so this \$5 charge is a 33% increase. No. 10 years to pay for a technology which will be out of date on less than 10 years? No. What is the prepay cost?
- I have two meters, and this would increase my bill significantly. I am a low income, single parent, and this would be an unnecessary hardship.
- This is not a necessity for the city. Let's keep the cost of water as cheap as we can. People are just lazy to want this
- The water bills are high enough that I don't want an additional fee. As it is my bill has went up 20-30 per month compared to what it was last year. No, i don't have a leak! I'm using the same average amount of water as before. I have no problem reading my meter if it means not paying the additional fee! Then you want to charge interest on the meter for 10-15 years, really! If the city would quit paying thousands to companies that tell them yes they should replace that ice house or upgrade that pool we would have more money. Also, why did we pay a company to build that ice house when we have a college in our own town that has a program that could have built it for the cost of supplies? We could have given the department 10,000 for doing it and still have built it under what was even budgeted that's not even taking into account that the budgeted was off by thousands of dollars. Boy that company the city paid \$50,000 to for those numbers should probably give us a refund! I've always been proud of our city council compared to Mankato's but now I'm beginning to think they are a bunch of idiots like Mankato's. Part of the reason I bought my house in North Mankato rather than Mankato was because of their council, seems like Mankato's council has moved to our town.
- People get charged way too much as it is. We are tired of the politics and government running our lives and telling us we should do this or do that with our money! There are other programs out there that need more consideration. We are spending money like it grows on trees for projects like this, when people can read their own meters! For one, these are ideas that should be a choice not a demand. For two, property taxes go up all the time and we should not have to pay more for what we own. For three, stop using money for greed and let people spend their money the way each of them want to!

- Prepay?? Why 10 -15 years?
- It only takes 2-3 minutes to read it and report it monthly, so I don't need an automatic meter. However, if the city will save much money from inaccurate readings that are submitted, that could change my position. I just don't want to pay \$36-\$60 per year to avoid about 1/2 hour of time reading the meter per year.
- We don't need this. We are both retired and 9 dollars may seem like a small amount, but when you are on a fixed income it becomes a big deal. How much time does it take to read a meter and submit it on line , 10 min. We have two meters, to me it seems like a high price for a convenience I don't need.
- Everything is absolutely fine just as it is.
- Not needed. The current system works just fine. Save another fee/tax and give people living on fixed income a break.
- Not needed. The current system works just fine. Save another fee/tax and give people living on fixed income a break.
- I don't mind current system and prefer to not have to pay any more. Thank you!
- For \$108.00 a year on two meters, I can read and submit.
- This was a tough one. I said yes, but my husband said no. So.... I guess no.
- Paying interest doesn't seem right. The surcharge for 10-15 years seems like a really long time.
- I'm happy how it's been for the 40 plus years I have lived in N. Kato. Leave it alone!
- For my 2 meters (\$9.00) I will go down and read my meter. I still can not understand as a widower how I can use 90-100 gals of water every day, for years. It's like a zero is being added to my readings every month.
- Its high enough now & no problem to call in.
- No reason to change
- Monthly bill is already too high. Eliminate or reduce an item & I would be more likely to consider this.
- The front says a 5000 gallon month water bill is \$25.15. Not sure where you are getting that from. My 4640 gallon bill this month for water and sewer was \$46.00
- Although automated readers are great - what makes North Mankato better is as simple as the residential water utility rate on the other side!



- Why try to find ways to increase cost? Need to find ways to reduce cost! I have no trouble to read my meter manually and on time. Those that can't continue to charge them \$3.00 or more. Have a city employee visit each house once every three years or when sold. Use this to confirm accuracy of readings. Those who are frequently late - visit more often.
- Everything working well. Plug a few potholes instead.
- I am more than happy to write the meter # down on the bill.... it takes me <30 sec. If the system "ain't broke then don't fix it"
- New meters are not necessary!
- How about updating the swimming pool - I can read my own meter - takes 2 seconds - I DO NOT want another meter on the outside of my house - Thx!
- The trustees of Belgrade Ave UMC have voted against your proposal of changing the water meters. We feel you can better use the money for other work within the city.
- Good grief! When the City of North Mankato does a road project they take bids. They charge residents based on the highest bid while selecting the lowest bid for the work. We residents have already paid. The city needs to step up and take care of this charge if they go forward. Residents don't have the deep pockets the City Officials think they do. They need to do a better job with money management. Listen to the residents you are supposed to serve. Stop Serving Your Own Agendas.
- The current system works fine. If the City wants to replace my meters to improve efficiencies for City Staff, then the City can cover the cost of replacing my meters with the savings. I already paid for my meters and they work fine. I don't want to pay again to replace them.
- IF auto water meter reading would reduce the cost of people handling late readings & human error there should be a very minimal charge. I'm sure you are now paying employees to handle all the calls, paperwork, fees for late customers. Auto meter readings should reduce that honestly - pass that savings onto customers who have great payment history please :)
- I have no problem reading our meters. Being on a fixed income in my retirement, I do have a problem with the rates on everything I use going up, while my income stays the same.
- As a person 73 years old hoping to retire some day I really hate to increase the utility bill. As a City of Mankato employee I also understand the convenience of this process.
- I can read our meter for a lot less than the estimated rates of \$75.00 to \$100.00 per year
- Why 2 meters, rather than 1? Purpose of 2nd meter? I don't mind reading the meter myself.
- We prefer to continue to read our meter and drop off payment at no cost. Thank you!

- Not a hardship to read the meter. Maybe it could be elective per household?
- Don't "fix" something that isn't broken! Spending millions so I don't have to write down a couple of numbers & drop them off?!? I don't even waste a stamp...Let alone millions! Stop spending my money!!!
- What we are doing now is just fine. Why waist money and have us pay for it!
- We have no problem reading our own meter. The added expense is not necessary.
- To me its not that big of deal to write the numbers down when I pay the bill.
- Don't feel this is a necessary service.
- No problem reading our own meter. Don't like the cost for us seniors!
- Confused by multiple water meter statement - will most people need more that one, or is this more for people that have a rental unit in their home? \*As we are already going to have new road, sewer, and sidewalk payments, I really don't care to have an extra payment on top of that - I still have to take the bill in, so this will barely make my life simpler.
- The extra \$9 for both water meters are unnecessary and I can't imagine having to pay between \$1050 to \$1600 for both water meters at the end of 10 to 15 years. These figures doesn't even include the interest charges if we did not prepay. I hope customers should be given the option of doing it and not be forced to have it done. Taking the water meter readings is a very easy once a month job and I can't imagine some people can find it an inconvenient thing to do.
- We are still able to read our meter. Thanks.
- Is it correct that after 10-15 years there would be no surcharge of \$5 for one and \$4 for the second? What is the interest savings amount for prepaid?
- We pay for meters. People are to lazy to read. Also people are on a fixed income & with school referendum going thru & prices going up but income is not. You can't squeeze blood out of a turnip.
- I would rather read the meter(s) myself than chuck another \$10/mth.
- I don't think we need this. It is not hard to read the meter.
- I'm perfectly capable of manually reading to save \$9/month
- No problem with reading our own meter.
- Just paid for new meter when I bought this place, & \$12000 for the exterior plumbing to the street & \$5000 for interior plumbing, I just don't want to spend more on plumbing. Honestly

though, in the long run I would like this. I hate climbing the stairs into the basement. Is the surcharge to cover the cost of the equipment & therefore short term? Or are we paying for convenience & paying forever?

- According to your regional survey, North Kato would then go from 8th ranking to 6th and in my case 4th because I have two meters. It takes me three minutes to read and record my meters - not a problem at all - I don't need auto reader.
- Prices keep going up and there is no end and people on limited income can't keep up. Seniors should not have to add more on their bills.
- I would pay for it all at once upfront. I would prefer to pay up front all at once and would that be 15 years @\$5 for \$75? & then no surcharge? Please explain more. I would prefer to pay a flat fee rather than a surcharge this way my bill would stay the same & the auto one would be paid for without a service fee. I don't like reading the meter each month easier if someone else does it. Especially if my landlord insists on coming into my apt unannounced.
- A \$6 - \$10 increase for a two-meter home that averages a \$75/month bill (or less) is just way too expensive relatively speaking.
- \$3 - \$5 is just way too much relative to the average utility bill in North Mankato! Especially per meter!
- The 2 small benefits noted on this questionnaire do not justify the need or cost for automated meters. Too many City costs are rising. We do not need additional costs. Our property taxes alone went up a considerable amount this year. North Mankato is no longer looking like an affordable option for retirement.
- First & Foremost; "Nothing is as permanent as something temporary". If people are to dumb and/or lazy to read their meters fine them. Finally; who gets the "kick-back" on this deal? I see NO economic benefit from this move. Are we realizing the \$5 million savings on the surcharge deal?
- I think what we have is fine. I would rather spend the money elsewhere.
- For what we already pay in property taxes in N. Mankato, I don't feel we should need to subsidize this City want. Let's face it this is something wanted by the City to create an efficiency for you to create savings but not pass it on to residents.
- I would gladly pay more for water service if the QUALITY of water was improved. We currently have to purchase water to drink.
- I don't have any trouble reading my meter. Sometimes I have a hard time believing what it says, but I am able to read it without difficulty. I am not lazy.
- I don't want to spend that much money to save less the 5 minutes a month to read the meter

- Bottom line, for \$3 a month, I can haul my lazy butt downstairs and read my own meter.
- The current system is fine.
- I do not want to pay anymore for utilities. It is NOT an inconvenience to read a meter. I do NOT want this increase. Put the new meters in new homes being build now and in future developments. If its not broken don't fix it!
- "By time installed \$7-\$10 when replaced 10-20 yrs \$20-\$25
- Not made in USA
- What is cost to read"
- I can't afford all the yearly increases now. Why doesn't the senior credit increase at the same rate??
- I don't believe there is anything wrong w/ the current procedure. I would like the City to explain what this would benefit us as the consumers other than just another fee. I am perfectly fine and capable of reading my meter monthly.
- We would be willing to pay the \$3-\$5/month fee if payments could also be automatic at that rate. Having auto payments monthly should save the City money on missing late payments. Tax payers should not have to pay an additional fee for auto payment and paperless billing if we move to auto read meters.
- "1) What is the cost of the meter? Your article says \$5/month for 10-15 years or pay up front. You did not include cost of meter - Why?? and how much?
- 2) If every residence, apt, business, and dwelling had the automatic meter reading, then billing, I assume would be computer generated. This in fact would eliminate hundreds and hundreds of hours per month. I assume this would eliminate the need for an office employee or 2. Would this not cover the cost of the meters?"
- If the City wants these meters they should pay for them.
- Question 1 & 2 can't be answered until we are told what total cost of a meter is and if we want to pay for it upfront to not pay interest charges! I don't mind reading my meter - I DO NOT want Autoread meter. My meters are not that old.
- I'm concerned about accuracy of these automated readers! As of now, I know what my usage is by reading my meter. I can see what I use now, not a month later when I get my bill! Don't really care for the idea!
- I have 2 meters to read now. Is one water & one sewer? So would the extra charge be \$9 per month? If so, that would be in increase for us of over 10% per month - kind of steep.



- I guess I would just as soon leave it as it is, as I don't mind reading my own meter.
- For \$9.00 cost/month, I can read my 2 meters myself. The installation of a 2nd meter for outdoor use was to SAVE money. I would be agreeable to a total monthly cost of \$3.00 for both meters. "Residents may prepay to avoid interest charges" - what does this mean?
- Would the payment be ongoing? Does it pay for equipment and automated reading or just equipment? Reading my meter is not inconvenient.
- I don't feel living off of Soc. Sec. that I can afford an extra \$9.00 a month. Reading the meter - no problem! Thanks.
- This is a service that should be provided at no extra charge. Put the cost of this project into a future City annual budget.
- I have no smart phone, computer, cell phone or any of the devices to monitor this - so you would need to call me & let me know if a problem came up. Our meter is also inside 3 block walls so it may not work.
- People can replace "their" meters when needed. Don't care how affordable N.M. is compare to other cities we don't need to spend this amount of \$ on water meters.
- I am on a fixed income and that would be a burden on me. Please leave it as is.
- "1 meter \$600.00 (10 yr) to \$900.00 (15 yr)
- 2 meter \$1080.00 (10 yr) to \$1620.00 (15 yr)
- Please make this clear to all customers what they will pay in TOTAL for this ""convenience"". Way too much for me to not have to walk down into my basement once a month to read the meter. Thanks for asking ""input""!
- \$600.00 (over 10 years) seems like a lot to just save going into the basement.
- Why? Are people too lazy? I would rather see my utilities money used for current projects - not new ones - Time to vote some people out, perhaps?
- We're not interested in paying \$108 extra each year or \$1080 in 10 yrs or \$1620 in 15 years.
- I have read our meter since 1988. I do not have a problem doing so. We upgraded our water meters fairly recently with our own remodeling. We would also be penalized because we have a meter strictly for the minimal outdoor watering we do. I fail to understand why people can't take 5 min/month to read their meters.
- Leave it the way it is!
- Not worth it for me, I would rather just walk downstairs and get the information.

- I would rather read my own meter.
- I would like to purchase meters outright. I own 7 meters. What is the interest rate you'd charge?
- Excuse me the water/refuse bill is my most expensive bill (utility) this month!
- You increase the cost of services, then you also charge for Recycling when other cities DO NOT CHARGE for recycling. Now you want to increase payments as a "meter surcharge" - When does the price stop going up? STOP increasing utility costs.
- I already pay an \$8 water base! What is that fine? I am not willing to pay any more! For \$5 I can read my own water meter.
- I already pay an \$8 water base! What is that for? I am not willing to pay any more. For \$5 I can read my own water meter.
- I have a new meter - why don't I read it and you send me \$60.00 a year for 10 to 15 years - Thank you
- We pay enough on our bill. Doesn't bother me to read & drop off for free.
- We have been faithful with our monthly readings. No need for any further surcharges in our minds.
- I want to pay less for water not more! Don't see the benefits. Too costly for what the "benefits" are.
- There should be savings. So show us a chart of increases & decreases. How much money do we have in a fund for future needs? Big users should be currently paying for future replacement costs and this money should be in a separate investment account.
- No problem reading the meter. Lets keep doing it!
- Are you really losing 3-4 million dollars worth of water? You don't read the meter anyway, you have no costs other than lost water and old meter replacement. Its another way to start a charge that never goes away!
- As a senior homeowner with a limited monthly income, do not wish for additional payment. I am satisfied with reading the meter monthly, correctly, and on time, as I have for the last 48 years. Going up and down steps is good for a person.
- We already pay extra taxes in N. Mkt, so I can't see why we should have to pay even more for something the City should instead budget out of those funds.

- I have 2 meters, for almost \$10/month I am more than willing to spend 30 seconds to read my own meter. Please do not implement this, families are trying to save money, not add un-needed expenses.
- I can read the meter fine.  $\$5/\text{month} \times 12 \text{ month}/\text{yr}$  for 10 years is \$600! That is a lot of money! How much time do people spent to read their own meter every month? Do they make \$5 for that time?
- I was told to replace the current meter cost  $>\$100$ . The proposed meter cost:  $\$5/\text{month} \times 12 \text{ month}/\text{yr} \times 15 \text{ yr} = \$900$ ! I don't want to pay \$900 for just not read the meter. Reading the meter cost me about 1 minute per month. I don't think that is worth \$5.
- Done it same way for 40+ years. With change  $5.00 \times 12 \times 10 = \$600$   $5.00 \times 12 \times 15 = \$900$  (+ interest) on social security - can think of lots of other ways to spend \$600-900 +
- My water bill is high enough right now.
- The cost would be too much for older people & young people. The cost is going up on everything & we can't afford it.
- Yes, I think I can do the meter reading. Otherwise I will go along with your idea.
- "1) When comparing water rates with other communities you FAILED to note those who have automatic readers.
- 2) You also FAILED to inform homeowners about comparable sewer rates; garbage rates, and recycling rates in other communities."
- Unnecessary waste of money
- This will cost me \$180.00 per year. I will gladly read my own meter to save this cost.
- It is not an inconvenience to read the meter once a month. I don't think it is necessary to upgrade the meters to automated for that cost.
- I've read the meter hassle free for 35 years. The current system works for me.
- I have no problem reading my own water meter. Don't think I should have to pay because some are to lazy to read their own - takes all of 5 minutes.
- We pay a lot more for taxes (property) in North Mankato compared to Mankato. Why can't some of that go towards an automatic reading system?
- Keep it the way it is - bill already expensive. Will add up in a year's time.
- I am not willing to increase my bill. Not worth it. Thanks.

- 10 to 15 years are you kidding! How much is a meter? Divide by \$5.00 then divide by 12 = years.
- I am happy with current system.
- $9.00 \times 12.00 \times 15$  years!
- Wouldn't want extra cost. No problem going down to read meter.
- We are in a condo, gone each year - fall - spring - We turn water off when we leave in Oct - Turn on again when we return end of March - early April. No need to have water meter read, while we are gone. How do you charge for us in condo's? We have never had to pay for reading a meter in any town we have lived.
- I'd rather save \$6-\$10/month and read it myself. I don't see any value to my investment.
- I have 2 meters and I think \$9.00 is too much. It is not a big deal for me to read it. Especially for \$9.00.
- I can do this reading myself. Especially if I save \$9.00 (too high). If I were to spend money on this, I would consider \$3.00 a fee of convenience.
- Out tax payments are high enough for North Mankato. I don't mind reading the water meter monthly. If it will save a little money, that is completely fine.
- No to any more surcharge. It never ends. Thank you very much.
- Too expensive! I rather measure/enter it myself online.
- I don't feel the price is worth any benefit and would be upset to have to pay for this. I do not mind reading my current meter monthly.
- I'm on a fixed income and don't find it an inconvenience reading the meter at all.
- I'd much rather save the \$9 a month and enter them in myself.
- I don't feel the benefit is that great. The additional \$5.00 is \$5.00 less for groceries & medicines & being on a (small) fixed income, this increase along with all others coming down the pike is more than I can handle. Let's curtail some of these increases to help keep me off welfare (which is also waning.)
- I kind of like our simple way of being accountable for measuring our water and being tuned in to the usage.
- Because we have 2 meters, adding \$3-5/month adds \$100 or more to our annual bill. I don't see the value since we only have to submit a reading once a month.
- Too easy to read water meter and send in the reading.



- This is a terrible idea! I already pay enough for water & I do not want it tracked automatically. I have 2 meters this is going to cost too much money & I already pay a ridiculous amount in TAXES!
- The consumer needs to be given credit for reading their own meter readings. If an error occurs in the reading, it is usually corrected with the next reading. This is just an extra charge added to something a consumer can adequately handle. Give us some credit. We are not helpless! Or most of us are not clueless! For us...a \$1620 charge for 15 yrs for you to read our meter is ridiculous!!!
- 10-15 years is about our life span. We would have to pay \$9.00 a month which would cut into our monthly budget which is a fixed income that hasn't increased much more than the \$9.00 per month.
- At most I would be willing to pay \$2 bucks per meter/mo. At an estimated \$5 (1st) and \$4 (2nd), \$9 a month (x12 mo x 10-15 yrs), up to \$1620.00 for that service? No thanks. I'll walk in my utility room, check my CO/smoke detector, change my furnace air filter and do a monthly check and take 10 seconds out of my day to write down #s
- Way to much \$ surcharge. Per month 10-15 yr! For what you get out of it in benefits. Raise tax's a little bit? or get a grant to help hold down cost. Natural gas co. did not charge cust. to move inside meter to outside (new) at least not for long term - like 10-15 yr!!
- I think there are better places to spend \$3-\$4 million.
- I guess I don't have an issue reading my meter and saving \$900 (up to) for the 10-15 yrs. It doesn't take that much effort, so it isn't an inconvenience for me. This would be for my one meter. Thanks.
- I feel if you want to change the meters you should charge a one time fee for the meter like it always has been. If a homeowner cannot afford this, have it assessed on their property taxes.
- As a senior citizen, wishing to remain in my home, I am still most capable of reading my own meter. With this new proposed monthly surcharge my water bill would increase on estimated \$9/month (\$108/year) as I have a second H2O meter for outdoor use. I think there must be a better option to pay for this proposed project rather than implementing an additional residential fee. Thank you for seeking feedback through this survey!!
- Have enough expense now the way it is. Especially for seniors on Social Security.
- If someone paid me \$3-\$5 to read 5 numbers and write them down, I would be a millionaire! The total cost to me over 10-15 years would be \$600-\$900! If I invested my \$5/mo in a good growth mutual fund for 15 year I would have \$2236.78!!! Well worth it for me to read the numbers. NOT INTERESTED!
- Absolutely, no

- What is the interest rate?
- Who's convenience!?
- Meters must reduce cost, not increase it.
- This seems like a pretty outrageous cost (up to \$900?) for a tiny benefit
- On a limited budget. It takes just a few seconds to read meter.
- It takes 30 seconds to read the meter. Therefore, I'd rather spend that 30 seconds and read the meter instead of paying a fee and not reading it. This is a terrible proposal.
- I feel the City would be wasting money adding automated meter reading. Reading your meters is very easy now. And just a added expense to res.
- I'm doing just fine reading the meter myself!
- Currently we read the meter. We put it in the envelope and drop it off at the City Hall mail box. It can't be any easier for the customer that that!!! I didn't read this until I dropped off the bill at City Hall.
- I live on Social Security. There is no extra money. There are a lot of older people in N. Mankato that can't afford this. We were suppose to get a raise from SSI this year. We did not. Medicare went up, that took the raise we were to get. Think of us older people before you decide these extra fees. 92.27 paid now, really?
- This is for your convenience and process improvements not mine. Your billing process should be improved and save you money and you now want to charge us more for it. Please install and lower our bill. I am certain you will recover your cost in admin fees in a few years.
- Taxes Already To High!
- Please do not upgrade, it gives me a reason to go to my basement once per month & check things out! Thanks. I do not want the extra cost!!!
- \$3 to \$5/meter seems awfully expensive - Since most peoples water/sewer usage is fairly consistent why not go to a once per quarterly reading and bill monthly based on last reading.
- I still can read my own meter.
- Very comfortable reading my own meter. For 10 years - who does maintenance? If the vote is no - does the City still plan to go automated or listen to voters?
- In all the years we've been here we haven't had trouble with anything. Why fix it if it isn't broken? Technology is good to a point but spending money just so we are keeping up with others isn't doing anything but spending money!

- I can read my own meters for \$9.00 a month. We're already paying a base rate for water, water usage, double the water usage for sewer plus \$9.00 a month for garbage (we only have one small bag per week - the rest we recycle) and we only get \$1.25 senior credit.
- Too Costly.
- I would like more info on this subject. Right now I am not sure. My average is around \$55 to 60 a month. Sometimes less. Does Mankato have it? I assume in the winter my second meter is off. So would this be less each month? Would it be the same each month? Its a little different than I thought it would be. Right now its working fine. Unless there is cheating going on when people read their meters. Thank you.
- Please leave well enough alone. We pay way to much for taxes the way it is & we do not receive the services the way we did in the past. Administration and Council is Bogus. John Frankenstein making & stealing to much tax money. What a loser!
- There really is no benefit to the customer here. I'll read my own meter for \$9 a month.
- Not needed. These smart water meters collect other data from inside the home. Water usage is just 1 function of these in-home data collection devices. NO, NO, NO. Thank you :)
- It takes 2 mins to read your meter
- Lazy people
- Water bills are all ready to high
- I have no problem reading my 2 meters. I don't wish to pay the additional cost involved.
- I feel bad for the people that think it is to much to ask that they read their own meters. I don't think it is necessary. Thats my answer.
- Not interested.
- I am opposed to the added charge per month for an automated water meter. It takes me 1 minute per month to read the meter.
- The surcharge fee for this is almost more than what we pay in water.
- I don't feel a strong need for the new program. However, if the program is enacted, I would likely choose to pay the full amount up front. More information concerning the full cost of the program including installation costs, maintenance/operational costs (batteries/ac electricity), and replacement cost at end of unit's life would be helpful.
- I am ok with what I have now and am unwilling to change anything at this time. I'm old fashion!

- Made in Israel? \$600-\$900 to save reading meter manually? + unknown installation cost 12 minutes a year is \$60
- Why isn't Mankato listed? This should have been done years ago!
- Like it the way it is.
- "I am not willing to pay for any automated water meters. Who is getting the kickback from the water meter manufacturers????????? Instead of spending \$3-\$4 million on water meters I suggest the following for the counsel to consider:
  - 1. No more parks
  - 2. No more nonsense trails to nowhere.
  - 3. How about backing a grocery store, restaurants (like an I-Hop, McDonalds, Arby's, Kaiserhoff and other business ventures in North Mankato so we can stop giving .05% to Mankato. If I buy just about anything I have make a 25 to 30-mile round trip to Mankato to get it. I might just as well live closer to the majority of shopping opportunities and move to a city where it is happening.
  - 4. Start going after businesses to locate in North Mankato! A full service Hotel would be nice along with the others mentioned above."
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- We like to be in charge of watching the usage of our water and being aware of any leakages as they occur. We are attentive to utility usage. Secondly we have a second meter for summer lawn watering and use it sparingly. Why would we want to pay a yearly usage rate for 3 months of summer? Our vote is NO!
- I don't mind reading my meter I think its nostalgic

- OK with reading meter manually
- My monthly City of No Mankato utility bill is @ \$50.00/mo. Adding an extra \$5-\$10/mo as I have 2 meters, would be an extra/increase of 10-20% per month.
- I think it would be wiser to leave things as they are, and use that 3-4 million dollars for street repairs, snow removal and other projects within the City!
- Sad world of lazy people :( SAD! World of lazy butts. Lazy people if they cannot read monthly :(
- I am fine with the present system.
- Nothing wrong with present system
- This is to your benefit as well as homeowner.
- I have no problem reading our own meter, but will go with the flow!
- Isn't everybody's monthly expense high enough? - That's all I got to say about that! (Forrest Gump)
- This would be too expensive over the long run for too many people. Please don't implement the automatic water meter reading proposal. It's not a difficult task for a resident to perform. Thanks for seeking input from the residents. Our utility bill is taken out automatically every month. So I'm just returning this form now.
- I use less than 5,000 gallons/mo, and I can easily read my meter for my monthly bill. Please allow residents the option of choosing automated meter reading, or not. Thank you.
- I believe our City has many problems they need to spend money on before water meters. Our streets are hard to drive or bike on. The sump pumps drain into City streets that breed mosquitos all summer long as streets keep breaking up. Our taxes increase year after year with no end in sight! Lets fix these problems then deal with meters that will increase our bills by \$5 a month!
- Waste of money
- This questionnaire should include the amount it would cost to prepay. It seems a long time, 10-15 years, to pay for something at \$5.00/month. I would need the prepay amount to make a decision.
- Not enough benefit for the cost proposed.
- I am 79 and on SS I have a fixed income and have to pinch pennies
- I can read our meters for \$5.00 per mo., the money could be put to better use.

- The self read system is great for many reasons. It keeps us as consumers better informed about how much water we consume AND it is a very easy simple thing to include in the payment. Thank you - No Change Please!
- The surcharge would be \$9 for our 2 meters. I would MUCH rather spend a few minutes/month to read my meters than to spend the \$9.
- This is a solution in search of a problem. Save the money!
- Not in favor!
- We don't mind reading our meters monthly :)
- I feel that this is not needed and have no problem reading my meter each month - no all the way. Keep the cost of water low as can be.
- I don't feel the need for auto meter reading, as I have no issues looking up the number(s) and reporting it as we done all these years :) Thx!
- I just put in a new sewer & water service with two brand new water meters in 2011. I can read mine just fine.
- "1. How much does the current reading cost?
- 2. How much does the manual reading/data entry cost?
- 3. Would the electronic reading be less expensive?
- 4. Would \$5 monthly cover the above cost in 1 & 2?"
- Our TOTAL monthly bill is high enough! At \$5.00 per month x 12 months = \$60 which would pay one months utility bill!!!
- I would prefer not to! If I am forced to - I will pay it! I live on Social Security so every dollar counts. I do not mind reading my meter!
- "1. A nine dollar surcharge for meter 1 & meter 2 would put a North Mankato monthly bill higher than most other cities in the area.
- 2. The 3-4 million could be used for more useful things in North Mankato."
- I'd like the service, but it's easy to do myself too.
- System is working - leave it be. Don't want added expense.
- I have no problem reading my meter. Been doing it for 50 years!



- The City just raised the cost of our water because we were not using enough water! huh? Save tax payer money by: 1) stop sending a hard copy in the mail. IF people pay online and use pay by bank account there is no need for a hard copy. Get with the times & email bills OR send paper billing to only those that request it. Also if you pay on line why does the City send a blue envelope every month? Waste.
- The benefits are a joke & cost is prohibitive. The only one who benefits from this is the salesman. 3 to 4 million are you kidding. I was Water Superintendent for 10 yrs & Public Works Director for another 10 yrs. I know the little scams and this is one of them. I could care less what other cities are paying. It is your job to provide cost effective rates and not trying to be in the middle of the pack. This is a huge increase for the citizens of North Mankato.
- I don't mind reading my water meter if it means keeping our water bills lower.
- 0.50 - 0.75 minimum
- If this is a benefit and necessity to all residents and the City, our taxes should pay for this. This should come before hockey rinks, bike trails, Caswell Park, etc. that doesn't benefit all residents. These are all important but should not be the top priority!
- So, renters who pay the water bill get to decide if landlords will have to pay for there new meters?? Tenants who begin paying may move/leaving the added expense to someone who never had the opportunity to make the decision!
- I prefer the current system. And just continue to charge those who don't read the meter.
- We have two meters and don't need the extra cost to make your jobs easier!! Costs go up every year and seniors struggle with the bills. Maybe you could lower cost and make a few less dog parks and biking trails, I can still read my own meter!! Bad Idea.
- Have a nice day!
- North Mankato roads are showing severe neglect! Cracks & potholes not filled, roads breaking up along the curbs, roads not seal coated in many years. Patching in late Oct & Nov is worthless. The patches break up or are dissolved during the winter. The City should cover the expense of the automated meters.
- Some of us are on a fixed income & with it going higher makes things tougher.
- What would be the pre-pay amount? I think I would prefer that route.
- \$5 a month for 5 min work is a lot. Do you want us to read our own meter?
- This is another UNNEEDED expense to the tax payers. Hell No Harrenstein. Hell No Council.

- For a senior with a fixed income it is difficult when things keep going up. There seems to be monies for somethings and not others. I would suggest we take a look at issues that effect all would be looked at in light of who needs what. Why would this added cost need to be paid by the individual when we fund projects that do not benefit all with tax dollars.
- Does a homeowner own the water meters in their home?
- The system we have is working fine. PLEASE leave as is. Affordability is very important. Reading the meter monthly is no problem for us. PLEASE leave as is.
- Has anyone complained about having to read their own meters? If not, why mess with something that's been working out just fine?
- Prefer to pay whole amount up front. But you did not state how much a "one" time cost would be.
- What is wrong with this City? It seems to have money for forgivable loans to businesses that go out of business in 1 or 2 years. Always have money for anything recreational - swimming pool - bike trails etc which benefits only a small percentage of the people. It seems it would benefit the City more than the Customers. Xcel & CenterPoint Energy has done this at no extra chg.
- We don't mind reading our meter & submitting it monthly.
- I want to keep reading my meter
- Live on fixed income can't afford it leave as is
- There are many other VALUABLE investments we could make with 3-4 million. Not clear why reading a meter 1x a month is so difficult unless a person has a disability & mobility to a basement is an issue. Accommodate as needed for those people.
- My only hope is that this gets read!! Enough is enough! Too bad people are too LAZY to read a meter! All services are already high including all the surcharges! Whether it be electricity, heating, sales taxes, auto licenses, county wheelage tax, sales tax on vehicles sold multiple times, school referendum, building permits on installation/replacing of furnace & air all necessary, siding, shingling, on & on. People pay sales tax on these items & we are taxed to put these things! One note in Free Press a person at counsel meeting suggested water meter bill any money over the dollar mark - If people would donate the city write check for full dollar! Bill - \$79.20 write check for \$80.00 Where does this kind of thinking come from?
- It only takes a minute to read both our meters and write down the usage. The added charges would impact those on fixed incomes and the elderly. If I read the info correctly, we are also charged interest? Who wants to pay for service 10-15 years down the line. Please reconsider. The extra charges will put us up there as far as what other cities pay.
- We're happy to read our own meters to save about \$9 a month in extra bills.

- People need to stop being lazy and read the meters. It doesn't take much effort!
- I don't see the need, and believe the majority of N. Mankato residents are smart enough to read their own meters and find leaks. We've been doing it for years. I know many people on our side of the river, and have never run into anyone who was concerned with these issues.... PLUS we don't need the extra expense. Especially with the prices of everything else on the rise!!
- What is wrong with the system now? 3-4 million \$ is not necessary
- I do NOT mind reading my water meter.
- I can read my own meter for free, I see no benefit in automating it and costing me money.
- No problem to read meter as we've done for over 40 yrs!
- I am good with walking the few feet to read my own meter once a month. I don't feel I need to pay \$600-\$900 for the next 10-15 yrs for a system that already seems to work. Would much rather check the numbers myself double checking your work & entries
- With the recent property tax increase, school bonds and everything else rising, it is not fiscally responsible to embark on a project like this. The City of North Mankato needs to reign in the spending.
- I think a minimum of \$72/year to not read my meter is a lot of money.... & I hate reading my meters!
- \$9.00 extra month x 12 months = 108.00 x 10 yrs = \$1080.00 extra in fees for water payment. Extra burden for senior citizens trying to stay in there homes.
- No need for added expenses to the water bill! The ones I have now are only 9 years old and don't need replacing, thus a BIG WASTE OF OUR MONEY.
- Its not difficult to read your meter & pay bill once a month. I am not willing to pay extra. City bill keeps going up as is!
- I appreciate that our rates are lower than some others. For us, sure, we could afford \$60 more per year, and as it is we cannot read our meter without using our phones to reach in and take a picture because it is so inaccessible. But for \$60 or so a year, it's a mild inconvenience. If you do go ahead - that's fine - but then please charge the fee based on use, not a flat fee, so that those single users aren't paying as much as big users.
- Those of us seniors on a fixed income can't afford any more utility bills. We have been reading our own meter since 1975. I see no reason to change now. Just another added expense those of us on a fixed income can't afford.
- I can read

- Just offer it to the ones that want it.
- "1. Would the monthly charge also go up over time, as the cost of water rises, for the surcharge fee?
- 2. You mention the possibility of prepaying but you don't list the amount if a person did want to prepay. That cost may be helpful in that option decision to pay monthly or prepay.
- 3. Would it be an option for disabled or elderly people to get these automated meters if the majority of homeowners do not want them?"
- W/2 meters that raises bill almost \$10 more - for that we'll read our meter :)
- Two meters would have separate charges. This is not acceptable. The new meter would be for your convenience, not mine. The cost is NOT justified.
- This will not help lower bills; estimates mean it will cost more. People will still waste water, delay plumbing sinks, toilets, faucets, because it cost more for repairs than a high bill. Some people can't afford to fix things all at one time. Will this create another City job where employees get good pay and benefits? Problem? Do City employees have right to enter house? It takes less than a minute to read a meter! It won't be long the water bill will be the same as cable bill! I think our 1st priority is keeping clean, safe water.
- I believe we should have freedom of choice. It is just one more charge for the convenience of the City. As with all surcharges they never expire. The flexibility of seeing how much water you use, conserve or not, pay early or on time, if traveling.
- No. the City of N. Mankato has many needs and wants. Our citizens have no where to go to earn more money to pay for the wants for North Mankato. If the public tries to conserve, shouldn't the City?
- I have seen our new property tax bill for this year and it is a dramatic increase. I do not see any benefit being paid to me by approving the automatic meter reading. In my mind it should be reducing the town's cost & that benefit should be passed on to me!
- We are ok w/ reading our meters manually.
- Keep it the way it is now!
- My bill is high enough now.
- I have 2 meters 1 for inside water and 1 for outside water that could be \$9.00 or more. I'm on a fixed income. It only takes a few seconds for me to read and record the meter readings.
- This is an unnecessary expense and project to fund; given the amount of effort - little to none - to read my own meter.

- Very capable of reading it myself if it means its going to cost me more money per month. Most people try & save money any way they can. I personally not mind reading it.
- Why do you need two meters? What is water base? We are on a fixed income and can't really afford any added charges.
- Will we still be charged a fee for an exterior use meter during winter month when this meter isn't being used?
- The system is simple as is. We have an outdoor water meter that is used at best two months per year. I do not want to pay 12 months of charges for that meter.
- You already charge enough for water & sewer. You charge for storm water & we have no curb & gutter where I live, so no I don't want another charge on my bill.
- 2 meters/\$9/month is a LOT to pay
- For my case. I use less then 1000 gal/month. The added surcharge would be at least a 20% increase in my bill. This is not cost effective for me. For others, this would be a completely different and possible beneficial cost. This needs to be look at in a per customer basis.
- I can read my own meter. Rates are too high already. Why is the meter shown on picture not made in America.
- I do not want to pay for this!! I will be happy to read my meter.
- I don't find it a burden to read the meter. Plus, \$5/mo for 10 years = \$600. 15 years = \$900. My automated meter would be THAT expensive? Seems a bit high. While I appreciate your reasons on the front side of this survey, convenience for \$600 is too much, in my opinion.
- I certainly DO NOT think the 60 seconds a month I spend entering my meter reading online is worth \$9.00! Frame of reference - if I were paid \$9.00/minute that would equal \$540.00 per hour! INSANE!!! Not to mention the overall lifetime cost to my household for 2 meters - this is obscene & I am disgusted with the amount of my tax money it has taken to even get to the point of this survey.
- I will read the meter myself.
- I find the current system working well.
- According to your # of 25.15 a 9.00 increase would be about a 30% increase. That is about 25% of my fixed income increase. How can I justify to pay 25% of my income increase on something I don't need. It takes less that 5 min to read the meter. That equals \$90. hr I can save by reading my own meter. Other than that it would be ok. Maybe wait a year or two.
- 1. Reading our meter is part of inspection of our systems. 2. N. Mankato can control costs to residents by evaluating wants versus needs. This appears to be a nice want, but not a need.

- I will mark my own meter
- I would vote to keep things the way they are now.
- Not worth the cost every month for 10+ years
- I have owned a home in North Mankato since 1980. I see no reason that we cannot as a homeowner, manually read our meters each month. NOT TOO TOUGH OF A JOB!
- I'd rather be able to pay bill by an automated phone system so I don't have to write a check every month.
- This seems to be a financial penalization for those who read their meters and are observant of water usage. If a problem exists with water usage and meter reading, focus this cost on those who seem to be a problem. I'll happily continue to read my meter and send in the number faithfully each month while forgoing \$5 a month surcharge.
- I have no problem reading my meter. I don't want to pay for other people's laziness.
- Seems to me that everything is up except wages.
- I am fully capable of reading my own meter. I've been at this resident for 16 yrs and another resident for 10 more and have never had a problem with a leak or billing.
- The bill is already too high with garbage.
- Too expensive. Make it lower cost if at all possible. Not worth an extra \$108.00 a year.
- I'm okay reading my own meter. Why would I want to pay \$36 to \$60 a year for automatic meter reading.
- No problem reading our meter one time each month. See no benefit for the \$36 to \$50 per year add-on charge.
- Surcharges is another way to steal. to gain extra income.
- Why should I pay \$5.00 for something I can do in one minute. That's \$300.00 per hour. Wish I could make that. I still have to write you a check.
- No one's pay check increases higher than what everyone wants from us. Businesses say "what's another 2-3%". Well, add it up, I can assure you my take home pay can't keep up. PLEASE NO MORE! Thanks.
- The customer convenience is not worth the surcharge.
- Don't like the idea of prepaying or paying interest charges. Water rates were already raised because we were conservative and used less water. Continually raising rates is not good for

senior citizens on a fixed income. We are seniors and are willing and able to read our water each month.

- Not enough hard facts - estimate & we believe are too iffy
- It is not hard for me to read my own meter, but it could be hard to have another increase in my bill. I live on Social Security and that doesn't change.
- It takes less than one minute to read!
- I don't mind writing #'s monthly. Especially when I have 2 meters. An extra \$10 means something to me.
- I feel like we pay enough already without adding to it!
- It is not an added benefit to me. I've read my meter for over 40 years at a cost of \$0.00 & I want to continue that.
- It takes less than 1 min to go to the basement open the water meter lid, read the numbers and write them on the invoice. 1 min one day a month - hardly a hardship. When you live on a fixed income, any increase is less money for other necessary items. Since insurance, property taxes, other utilities have gone up it almost becomes a hardship. If this is implemented, seniors need an exemption!
- I will continue to read manually so you pay surcharge even if no usage. Do not see up front cost would I then own meters? As a way to save money I had an outdoor water meter installed and if you do this it would cost me \$48 a year. I am a senior citizen and retired I can not afford to be nickel & dimed.
- Reading the meter myself is simple, easy & free.
- Reading my own meter is not a big deal - we don't need bigger bills. Is it possible to make it optional per household?
- We pay enough for the water/garbage. 14.00 per month for a garbage container pretty dam expensive container. I live in Avalon Mobile home park, we don't benefit from a lot of the City, but still have to pay for it.
- I like reading my own meter - then I know what it is month to month. Charging water I use outside - I'll stop watering grass when we don't get enough so the lawn looks terrible - so be it! I may need to look into renting...
- Nine dollars to send you my meter readings. I DON'T THINK SO. If this is supposed to be a money saving for the City How can it be if you are charging us for reading our own meters. I say NO NO NO. How about a meter made in USA? Not Israel!



- We don't think there would be any benefit for us. Also we have an outdoor only water meter and don't feel we should have to pay for that when we only use that water for only 4-5 months! We don't think there is a need for automated meters! If the City thinks there is a need than it should be at the City's cost! Also, if you have to replace meters are they made in the USA!
- It is easy to send the meters each month. I have 2 meters located near each other. I do NOT want to pay an extra \$9.00 per month.
- NO
- It doubles my H2O bill
- Leave it the way it is.
- Living on a budget would make this more difficult.
- We are not interested in paying more \$ each month for this. For us to read our meter takes only a couple of minutes every month. That doesn't translate well to around \$9 more each month. Thank you for asking for our opinion.
- I all ready pay more for my water because of the low amount I use.
- Every thing goes up, retirement pay can't keep up with rising costs.
- People shouldn't be so lazy, they can't read there meters. Only takes a few minutes.
- Not necessary! Better water conservation with hands on reading our own meter.
- It is not worth the money
- Convenience isn't worth the cost forecast, other "benefits" are dubious, at best, for the consumer. Suggest you reconsider the value of this project and how to fund it from savings resulting to the water dept. If there isn't sufficient savings, then why move forward?
- Residents should not have to pay a surcharge for over a decade to fix a problem that is not broken. If you want to update do not charge us!
- I can't justify a \$9.00 monthly increase for a task I can do in 1 minute. Also, if this were in place, would it be more convenient to set up automatic withdrawal each month? I have attempted to do this in the past but did not due to a surcharge associated with online payments.
- I fond no problems in reading my own meter. Water costs go up - do not need another charge.

- Too expensive for those of us on a limited retirement income - Do not do this - Our SS raises were not even this much.
- I do not want my bill to increase because I am not able to afford even a couple more dollars amount on bills. I work hard for a living and I would like to spend money on other things I enjoy.
- To install the auto water meter the main supply of water needs to be turned off. That would start with the faucet inside the house. I estimate 30-40 percent of homes the faucet would need to be replaced. That would require turning off the main water supply to the house proper. Again 80-90 percent of those valves would need to be replaced. Bottom line all this does is cost the homeowner more money on top of the cost of the auto meters per month. If the faucets/shut offs are left alone no extra repair costs - no auto meter costs. I have 2 meters currently - one for inside and one for outside water. I am retired and it is no problem at all to go into the basement and read the meters. I can sure do that for \$9 a month for 10-15 years if that is as long as it is in place. The City extra sales tax did not go away when promised. If the City feels there is water disappearing and not being paid for spend some time investigating it. Do some random meter reading spot checks. I do have one question. What is the Cities "real" mission, meaning, and purpose for spending money on auto meters and the charging the home owner? Is it because it appears to be "in fashion" or the current "techy" thing to do? I submit things are good/OK as is!
- Too costly!! It doesn't seem worth it. An extra \$9.00 a month to automatically read 2 meters?? NO!! We who are on fixed incomes do not receive big yearly raises.
- I live in Camelot Park & I don't pay the City for garbage pickup. Looks like just another way for the City to charge us more once again!
- I am capable of reading my meters and submitting the readings online. If others get it wrong, maybe charge them a penalty instead of taxing all of us for their issues!!
- Cost is too much!
- I have no problems reading my own meters and submitting those numbers each month. I can not afford to have my bill increase.
- NO. We are seniors on a fixed budget and would not like an additional charge of \$9.00 per month for our 2 meters. I have no problem reading my own meter each month. If you have a charge for a second meter, what about the 5 or 6 months when we use no water outside??
- We have lived here for 29 years and have never had a problem with reading our meter. This is another cost increase by the City of North Mankato to force people on fixed incomes from the City. This City has no desire to have older residents live here.
- Cost is way to much!

- We are happy to read our own meter! My husband is 75 yrs - I'm 72 yrs. and our water bill is "high" enough. We also have other bills, of course, and BENCO is one - it's plenty high, too!! We appreciate living here in North Mankato but raising water bill and others is getting too be hard. We are living on Social Security which isn't much - especially mine!!
- Reading the meter is simply scheduled and is NOT a huge chore or inconvenience.
- Reading a meter is not a huge chore or inconvenience.
- How many residents are senior citizens and are on fixed incomes? Where do they find the extra \$3-\$5 per meter to pay for this service?
- Property tax is so expensive - lets save where we can!
- No problem reading our own meter.
- If the City wants automatic read then they can pay for them. And a surcharge of 5.00 for 10-15 years is not acceptable. I have no problem reading my meter once a month.
- As a senior I'm having a hard time on a fixed income. Thank you.
- Why would there be interest charged? People don't want to buy a meter? That's just another way to get extra money for NO reason! Stupid Idea! If people are too lazy to read their own meter, then they should just have to pay the late charges! Grow up people!! That still would bot prevent people from paying their bill on time! The same people would still be late with their bill!
- The fees are always going up - I work for Taylor. My pay doesn't seem to go up. Your need to remember the low income people in the City.
- We rent, so we really aren't interested.
- Why do meters cost 900+ dollars - actual cost for the meter & installation can't be that costly - sounds also like a lot of guessing in the numbers.
- I like reading my meter each month so I can keep a better handle on what's happening with the water usage. Besides the new water meter has been fairly recent.
- We don't mind reading the meter the extra cost could be a burden on some.
- Reading the meter is a simple task that only takes a few minutes. How about putting the \$3-4 million toward something actually worth while, like proving meals for poor & low-income in town, or developing a shelter for the area's homeless.
- Don't mind going down myself for 9.00
- No!

- Over a 15 year period one meter would cost \$900.00. Tell that to your customers. I'm not willing to pay \$60.00 per year for something that takes me 2 minutes a month to do. My money can surely be spent in a better way.
- Leave system alone.
- We read and submit our own numbers currently.
- Utility bills are already too much for the services we receive, find ways to decrease not increase.
- What a waste!
- Too costly - There must be a better way you would be doubling my bill according to the sample on the other side! I can read it myself, or pay a neighbor kid a lot less to do it if it would be needed.
- I have no problem with reading my two meters each month. Twelve readings @ \$9.00 per month = \$108.00 per year
- I would rather save the money & do it myself.
- I have lived at this address for 41 years and do not have a problem dropping my bill off in the drop box. I would prefer to save the money for NOT having automatic water meter reading.
- We can read our own. We don't need any more expenses.
- I don't want to pay anyone to do what I can do. It will be another bill that just keeps going up every year! I'm on a fixed income as it is.
- I think I can still read my own meter and so can everyone else!
- I am just fine reading my own meter - thank you for asking.
- This should be taken out of City funds. It is a cost item therefore it becomes a cost item that should be covered.
- It is a lot of money considering it takes a few minutes to do it myself. Additionally I think it is unfair to charge interest unless prepaid. I might not live here for 10-15 more years.
- If there is no ROI, no benefit to me, I would suggest that it is not worth the investment.
- $5.00/\text{mo} = 60.00/\text{yr}$ . I can save 5.00 each time to read my meter as I have been. 5 year savings = 300.00 10 year savings = 600.00 15 year savings = 900.00 I enjoy my meter reader obligation job! PS I am proud to be in "North" Mkt since 1977, 41 years. 41 years of automated meter reading = \$2460.00

- There does not appear to be enough info to make a decision. Are you estimating high or low for the meter and there is no info on interest to be charged except for "however, residents may prepay to avoid interest charges". What is it? Question #2 is a little misleading then if there is to be interest added. How much will it cost to prepay? How much is the total cost? Is it one lump payment? Installments? Not enough information. Shame.
- It seems like automated meter readings benefit the City more than it benefits the vast majority of N.M. Residents. And if it doesn't benefit the City why are we doing it? Agreed. It seems that if there are administrative costs that would be saved that could be swapped from tax or utility fees to surcharge. Otherwise, don't see any benefit. Surcharge should be no more than savings.
- I would like more info - for instance, will I need 1 or 2 meters? And if I wanted to pay for it upfront, what is that cost? Honestly, with the cost of everything else, I do not mind reading the meter every month.
- I don't believe that \$100/year extra cost justifies the benefits.
- \$3-\$4 million is a waste of money to spend on automated water meters. We in our city have affordable housing issues, parks in need of improvement, and many other expenses which I would rather have my taxes go to. This idea is fiscally and morally irresponsible.
- I have two meters, so the surcharge would total \$9 per month. I can read the meters and report the readings via the web in a total of 10 minutes. To pay \$9 to save 10 minutes of my time would not be good stewardship of my limited retirement income!
- Charging \$4 per month for a second meter would do away with the savings I got from installing a second meter!
- It only takes a minute to read the meter, and two water meters would add another \$100+ to our annual bill. We don't need that.
- This makes no sense to collectively spend millions on a problem that doesn't exist. Lets rethink our needs and address them instead.
- The purchase of a new meter would not cost \$300 per meter. I would be willing to purchase the meter, the software you need to read the meters would be benefit the city therefore needs to be paid through a budgeted item. Raise the rates not a surcharge.
- We favor auto meter reading... HOWEVER THIS EXPENSE SHOULD BE COVRED CURRENT WATER BASE CHARGE, WHICH SEEM HIGH ENOUGH. THANX FOR ASKING
- Cost too much and it isn't necessary. I can't afford to pay for it all at once and I don't like paying interest.
- The system works well and people have to be responsible for reading their own meters, the city cannot and should not do everything for it citizens

- It takes about 10 minutes to read 2 meters and to enter online; that's no big inconvenience. At \$9.00 per 2 meters, that's \$54.00 per hour; easiest \$54.00 per hour I've ever made. Where are the stats on errors and leakage? "Service Address: Roger Kamrath 27 Snowbird Trl North Mankato, MN 56003-1638 Acct Number: 25-044000-003"
- We have two meters so \$9 per month for 15 years is \$1620. Definitely not worth that much money when the readings are already accepted online.
- The cost seem high per household.
- Only way I agree to this change if as customers we did not incur additional costs. Our cost went up when you changed garbage haulers. That is the reason my answer is no.
- I pay enough fees! I can read it for free
- This adds up to a high cost for a task that takes less than 5 minutes/month
- We are living on a fixed income as we are retired. Our real estate taxes keep going up & up. Now you want to switch to an automatic meter and add a surcharge to our water bill! When does it stop?!
- I do not see the advantage (or benefit) to the homeowner in an automated meter. Please look at the homeowner tax raises and don't look for added expenses to stay in my home.
- If the city intends to update, update the current meters and make them automated. Two charges? Why does one not replace the other or combined?
- I can still walk back & write the numbers down. Good exercise.
- Reading our own meter does not take much time at all, we feel its unnecessary to spend money on automatic readers.
- I prefer to continue manually reading my water meters. It is NOT difficult to manually read a meter, so I see NO reason to pay for an automated meter.
- Stay the heck out of my home.