

CITY OF GREAT FALLS, MONTANA

AGENDA #   2  

**A G E N D A   R E P O R T**

**DATE**   January 20, 2004  

**ITEM:** Resolution 9354. To Levy and Assess Properties For Unpaid Sewer, Fire Hydrant, Storm Drain and Sanitation Charges

**INITIATED BY:** Fiscal Service Department

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Conduct Public Hearing and Adopt Resolution 9354

**PREPARED BY:** Martha Cappis, Operations Supervisor

**APPROVED & PRESENTED BY:** Coleen Balzarini, City Controller

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Following the public hearing and barring sufficient protest, staff recommends adoption of Resolution 9354.

**MOTION:**

“I move to adopt Resolution 9354.”

**SYNOPSIS:**

In November of 2003, staff reviewed delinquent accounts in the utility billing area. A total of \$5,503.37 is due on accounts with terminated water service. Of this amount, \$4,490.72 constitutes lienable charges. Section 7-12-4611, 4612, Section 7-13-128, and Section 7-13-4309, M.C.A., and City of Great Falls Municipal Codes 8.32.332 and 13.26.060 authorize the City Commission to assess lienable charges against the property to which service was furnished and for which payment is delinquent.

**BACKGROUND:**

Accounts which have service terminated are still considered “active” due to the fact that the water could be turned back on under the current name once payment is received. It is the City’s policy to only turn “finaled” accounts over to a collection agency for any unpaid balance. These accounts are “active”, and storm drain and fire hydrant fees are still being accumulated at the properties. These properties also receive the normal monthly billing statements. The Fiscal Services Department reviews the active accounts with terminated services each December and notifies property owners of the delinquent charges and the intent to lien the property through letters dated 11/19/03 – 12/01/03. The owners were given until 12/19/03 to pay the charges in full. On January 6, 2004, the City Commission set a January 20, 2004 public hearing date to hear anyone wishing to speak for or against Resolution 9354. On January 7, 2004, a certified letter was sent informing them of our intent to lien the property, with the parcel number and dollar amount. During this process, we have removed \$1,679.85 in delinquencies with payments or payment arrangements. In accordance with 7-1-2121, M.C.A, notice of the Public Hearing was published on January 11 and 18, 2004.