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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 10, 2018

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UTILITY RATE INCREASE

In 2017, the Town of Altavista conducted a facility assessment for water and wastewater assets, such as pumps, electrical components, water and sewer pipes, valves, and hydrants, as some of these assets are at the end of their useful lifespan. Once the utilities assessment was complete, a Facility Assessment Improvement Program (FAIP) was presented to Town Council, identifying approximately \$40 million of needed improvements for facilities, treatment, distribution, and water collection services over the next 25 years.

After the needed improvements were identified, Altavista Town Council directed staff to complete a rate study to determine a reasonable approach to fund the infrastructure upgrades. The rate study provides a guide to Town Council to help establish utility rates in order to secure funding for the improvements. The study currently shows increases for water and sewer rates for the next five years. The rates are expected to go into effect in December of each fiscal year with the first increase **December 1, 2018**; Town Council will analyze these rates annually.

Town Council also approved the implementation of a fixed/base charge, effective **December 1, 2018**, to help offset the infrastructure needs identified in the FAIP. Fixed/base charges are determined by water meter size. The new fixed/base charge for a common residential 5/8" meter will be \$6.50 per month. For more information on water meter sizes and corresponding costs, please visit www.Altavistava.gov.

Though these changes are effective **December 1, 2018**, customers will not see changes on their utility bills until the January bill for monthly customers or the April bill for quarterly customers.

If you have questions about your meter size or want to calculate your new rate, please refer to the utility rates and fixed/base charges listed on www.Altavistava.gov or call 434-369-5001.