



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

Date of Issuance: May 30, 2014

Contacts: Joyce Mulvaney, Public Communications Manager
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission
413-787-6256 ext. 182

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Hearing FY 2015 Budget – June 3, 2014

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, June 3, 2014, 6:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Springfield City Hall, Room 220
36 Court Street, Springfield, MA

The Springfield Water and Sewer Commission will hold its annual public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2015 (FY15) budget, capital improvement program, schedule of rates, fees and charges, and revisions to Commission rules and regulations on June 3rd at 6:00pm at City Hall, Room 220. The public is invited to attend.

The public hearing will begin with a comprehensive presentation detailing current and recently completed projects, financials, and proposed rate changes. After the presentation, the floor will be open to public questions and comments.

Some of the projects that will be highlighted include:

- The upcoming South Transmission Main Replacement project, which consists of replacing the 6-mile pipeline from Provin Mountain to the Route 5 rotary. Construction is expected to begin in September 2014 and continue for two to three years.
- Infrastructure improvements which include replacing 9,950 feet of sewer main and 9,600 feet of water main as well as the rehabilitation of 2,880 feet of sewer main at 21 sites throughout the City. This work is currently ongoing and will continue through FY15.



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

- An update on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Program. To date, the Commission has invested and committed approximately \$142 million in CSO remediation projects. The Washburn Street CSO project is ongoing.

The proposed combined water and sewer rate for residential customers will increase approximately 9.9%. If approved, the rate increases will be applied to water and sewer use beginning July 1, 2014 and our customers will see the rate increases beginning with bills issued in August 2014. For FY15, the residential water rate will increase from \$2.50 per 100 cubic feet (CCF) to \$2.66 per CCF. The residential sewer rate will increase from \$3.82 to \$4.34 per CCF. The typical household water and sewer bill is estimated to increase an average of \$78.16 annually, or about \$6.51 per month.

The rate increases are primarily driven by unfunded federal and state regulatory mandates in addition to implementing critical repairs, upgrades and replacement needs to protect public health and the environment, which sustain the quality of life for our City.

Although the FY15 Operations Budget continues to be affected by higher prices for fuel, treatment chemicals, materials, and business costs, the proposed Commission Operations Budget is slightly lower at \$45.2 million as compared with the FY14 operations budget at \$45.8 million. The proposed Total Operating Budget including debt service (loans for capital projects) shows a 5% increase over FY14.

The Commission encourages the public to attend to learn more about the water and sewer systems in Springfield and Ludlow, and to comment on the proposed fiscal year 2015 budget.

END