



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FY 2015 Water and Sewer Budget and Rates Approved by Commission**

Following a public hearing held on June 3, 2014, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission met on Thursday, June 12, 2014 to vote on the proposed fiscal year 2015 (FY15) budget, capital improvement program, schedule of rates, fees and charges, and revisions to Commission rules and regulations.

The Commission voted to approve a combined water and sewer rate increase of approximately 9.9% for residential customers. 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 Commission understands that rate increases are becoming a burden to residents. Unfortunately, these increases are primarily driven by unfunded mandates to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows in the City. We continue to balance and manage these rate impacts to our customers with the obligation we have to comply with federal and state mandates. However, since there is a lack of funding from federal and state agencies, the burden of funding our efforts falls on the rate payers,” said Daniel Rodriguez, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

During the meeting, The Commission also approved the proposed revisions to the Rules and Regulations, the FY15 Total Operating Budget of \$59.6 million (which includes total operations and debt service), the FY15 Capital Improvement Program Budget of \$36.4 million, and the three-year Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal years 2015-2017. The FY15 Total Operating Budget including debt service (loans for capital projects) shows a 5% increase over FY14.



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“In addition to the unfunded regulatory mandates, the Commission needs to invest in the aging water and sewer infrastructure so that we may continue to provide reliable services and fire protection,” said Katherine J. Pedersen, Executive Director.

Some of the major projects planned or in progress 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.
- The Washburn Street CSO project is ongoing in accordance with 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.

**END**