



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FY 2016 Water and Sewer Budget and Rates Approved by Commission

Following a public hearing held on June 9, 2015, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission met on Thursday, June 18, 2015 to vote on the proposed fiscal year 2016 (FY16) 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 4.8% for residential customers. The rate increases will be applied to water and sewer use beginning July 1, 2015, and our customers will see the rate increases beginning with bills issued in August 2015. For FY16, the residential water rate will increase from \$2.66 per 100 cubic feet (CCF) to \$2.78 per CCF. The residential sewer rate will increase from \$4.34 to \$4.56 per CCF. The typical household water and sewer bill is estimated to increase an average of \$42.00 annually, or approximately \$3.50 per month.

“While the new rate represents an increase, the increase is less than forecasted in our long range plan. The rate increases are primarily due to unfunded mandates to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows as well as necessary investments to update our water and sewer systems. We understand that rate increases are a challenge for our customers and we will continue to do everything we can to balance rates with our obligations to meet regulations, while minimizing the burden on our rate payers to the best of our abilities,” said Daniel Rodriguez, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

The Commission also approved the proposed revisions to the Rules and Regulations, the FY16 Total Operating Budget of \$58.7 million (which includes total operations and debt service), the FY16 Capital Improvement Program Budget of \$18.1 million, and the three-year Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal years 2016-2018.



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Some of the major projects planned or in progress include:

- The ongoing South Transmission Main Replacement project, which consists of replacing the 6-mile pipeline from Provin Mountain to the Route 5 rotary. Construction began in September 2014 and will continue for approximately two years. The estimated project cost is \$24 million.
- 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 be completed in 2015. The estimated project cost is \$7 million.
- The Main Interceptor Rehabilitation and CSO Improvements project, which consists of rehabilitating 3,200 feet of 60 and 66-inch diameter sewer pipe and associated manholes as well as three CSO structures along the Connecticut River. Construction began in June of 2015 and is expected to continue for approximately 18 months. The estimated project cost is \$20.1 million.
- The Washburn Street CSO project is ongoing in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Program at an estimated project cost of \$20.5 million. To date, the Commission has invested approximately \$120 million in CSO remediation projects. In FY15, the Commission received approval for its Integrated Wastewater Plan (IWP), which seeks to balance regulatory requirements with sustainable investment in the Commission's wastewater infrastructure.

END