



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Public Hearing FY 2016 Budget – June 9, 2015**

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, June 9, 2015, 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 2016 (FY16) budget, capital improvement program, schedule of rates, fees and charges, and revisions to Commission rules and regulations on June 9<sup>th</sup> 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 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.



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- 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.
- An update on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Program. To date, the Commission has invested approximately \$120 million in CSO remediation projects. The Washburn Street CSO project is ongoing with an estimated project cost of \$20.5 million. The Commission also received approval for its Integrated Wastewater Plan (IWP), which seeks to balance regulatory requirements with sustainable investment in the Commission's wastewater infrastructure.

The proposed combined water and sewer rate for residential customers will increase approximately 4.8%. If approved, 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.

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.

The FY16 Operations Budget continues to be affected by higher prices for fuel, treatment chemicals, materials, and business costs. The overall proposed Commission Operating Budget has increased by 1% as compared with the FY15 budget. The proposed Capital Improvement Program Budget for FY16 is approximately \$18 million.

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 2016 budget.

**END**