



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

Date of Issuance: June 3, 2016

Contacts: Joyce Mulvaney, Public Communications Manager
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission
413-452-1302

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Hearing FY 2017 Budget – June 7, 2016

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, June 7, 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 2017 (FY17) budget, capital improvement program, schedule of rates, fees and charges, and revisions to Commission rules and regulations on June 7th at 6:00pm at City Hall, Room 220. The public is invited to attend.

The public hearing will begin with a comprehensive presentation detailing recently completed, ongoing, and upcoming 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 by the South End Bridge. Construction is expected to be complete this summer. The estimated project cost is \$24 million.
- Infrastructure improvements which include the rehabilitation of 8,345 feet of sewer main as well as replacement of 334 feet of sewer main and 80 feet of water main at multiple locations throughout the City. This work is substantially complete at an estimated project cost of \$1.6 million. The Commission also completed the preliminary design for additional infrastructure improvements to be constructed at multiple locations throughout the City in FY17. This project



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

consists of replacing 3,700 feet and rehabilitating 6,300 feet of sewer main, and replacement of 7,400 feet of water main at an estimated project of \$6 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 into FY17. The estimated project cost is \$23.4 million.
- An update on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Program. To date, the Commission has invested over \$100 million in CSO remediation projects.

The proposed combined water and sewer rate for residential customers will increase approximately 4%. If approved, the rate increases will be applied to water and sewer use beginning July 1, 2016 and our customers will see the rate increases beginning with bills issued in August 2016. For FY17, the residential water rate will increase from \$2.78 per 100 cubic feet (CCF) to \$2.89 per CCF. The residential sewer rate will increase from \$4.56 to \$4.74 per CCF. The typical household water and sewer bill is estimated to increase an average of \$36.60 annually, or approximately \$3.05 per month.

The rate increases are driven by strategic reinvestment in water and sewer infrastructure which includes critical repairs, upgrades, and replacements, as well as unfunded federal and state regulatory mandates. Reinvestment in the water and sewer system is necessary to protect public health and the environment, which sustain the quality of life for our City.

The Commission's business costs are continually subject to inflationary factors, thereby impacting the FY17 operations budget. Additionally, the FY17 budget has increased to account for contractual agreements including operation of the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. Overall, the proposed Commission Operating Budget has increased by 2% as compared with the FY16 budget. The proposed Capital Improvement Program Budget for FY17 is approximately \$15 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 2017 budget.

END