



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Public Hearing FY 2018 Budget – June 6, 2017**

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, June 6, 2017, 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 2018 (FY 18) budget, capital improvement program, schedule of rates, fees and charges, and revisions to Commission rules and regulations on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Springfield 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, proposed rate changes, and a briefing on the state of the water and sewer industry. After the presentation, the floor will be open to public questions and comments.

Some of the projects that will be highlighted include:

- Water Treatment Plant optimization projects
- The South Transmission Main Replacement project
- Multiple infrastructure improvement projects within the City of Springfield
- The Main Interceptor Rehabilitation and CSO Improvements project
- The CT River Crossing and York Street Pump Station project

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, 2017 and our customers will see the rate increases beginning with bills issued in August 2017. For FY 18, the residential water rate will increase from \$2.89 per



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100 cubic feet (CCF) to \$3.01 per CCF. The residential sewer rate will increase from \$4.74 to \$4.93 per CCF. The typical household water and sewer bill is estimated to increase an average of \$38.13 annually, or approximately \$3.18 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 operations budget. Additionally, the FY 18 budget has increased to account for contractual agreements including operation of the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility, pension costs due to the City's more aggressive funding schedule, funding to address OPEB liability, and increased health insurance costs. Overall, the proposed Commission Operating Budget has increased by 6% as compared with the FY 17 budget. In FY 18, debt service will increase approximately 22% as compared to FY 17. The proposed Capital Improvement Program Budget for FY 18 is approximately \$22 million.

The Commission encourages the public to attend to learn more about Springfield Water and Sewer Commission operations, and to comment on the proposed fiscal year 2018 budget.

**END**