



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

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Contact: Jaimye Bartak, Communications Manager  
Springfield Water and Sewer Commission  
413-452-1302

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Springfield Water and Sewer Commission to Hold  
Public Hearing for FY 2019 Budget  
*Public Hearing Scheduled for June 5, 2018, 6 PM***

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, June 5, 2018, 6:00 P.M.  
LOCATION: Springfield City Hall, Room 220  
36 Court Street, Springfield, MA

Ratepayers, customers, and members of the public are invited to attend a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2019 (FY 19) budget, capital improvement program, schedule of rates, fees and charges, and revisions to the Rules and Regulations of the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission on **June 5, 2018, at 6:00 PM**. The meeting will be held at Springfield City Hall, Room 220.

The public hearing will include a review of significant projects and initiatives that are planned or currently underway, with a focus on projects that are drivers of proposed rate changes, as well as a review of the operations and capital budgets for FY19. Following the presentation, ratepayers, customers, and members of the general public may present questions and comments to Commission staff and the three-member Board of Commissioners that will be present.

Some of the projects to be highlighted include:

- The Connecticut River Crossing and York Street Pump Station project
- Water Treatment Plant optimization projects
- Upgrades to dams, reservoirs, and watershed infrastructure
- Sewer and water infrastructure improvement projects within the distribution system of Springfield and Ludlow
- Information technology and security upgrades



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If approved, the proposed combined water and sewer rate for residential customers will increase approximately 7.5%. For FY 19, the residential water rate will increase from \$3.01 per 100 cubic feet (CCF) to \$3.22 per CCF. The residential sewer rate will increase from \$4.93 to \$5.32 per CCF. The typical household water and sewer bill is estimated to increase an average of \$74.61 annually, or approximately \$6.22 per month. The proposed rate increases will be applied to water and sewer use beginning July 1, 2018, with the increases reflected in bills issued in August 2018.

The Commission is an independent, regional public utility with a budget that meets operating expenses and finances and executes essential infrastructure upgrades. The Commission's operating costs are continually subject to inflationary factors, and also increase due to pension contributions in accordance with the City's funding schedule; OPEB liability; increased health insurance costs; and contractual agreements such as the operation of the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The proposed rate increases are driven primarily by carefully planned capital re-investment in aging water and sewer infrastructure, including critical repairs of pipes and upgrades of treatment and processing facilities. The rate increases are also driven by infrastructure investments needed to comply with evolving state and federal regulatory requirements. Investments in water and sewer infrastructure upgrades result in improved service reliability, protection of public health, reduced environmental impacts, and improved quality of life for Commission customers.

The proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget for FY 19 is \$115,212,000, of which \$100 million is low-interest financing from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust for the Connecticut River Crossing and York Street Pump Station Project. The proposed Commission Operating Budget has slightly decreased by 1.8% as compared with the FY 18 budget, and FY 19 debt service will increase approximately .35% as compared to FY 18.

The Commission welcomes and encourages customers, ratepayers, and members of the public to attend to learn more about Springfield Water and Sewer Commission operations and capital projects, and to comment on the proposed fiscal year 2019 budget.

**END**