



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Springfield Water and Sewer Commission Approves
FY 2019 Water and Sewer Budget and Rates**

Following a public hearing held on June 5, 2018, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (Commission) met on Thursday, June 16, 2018 to vote on the proposed fiscal year 2019 (FY 19) 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 for residential customers of approximately 7.5%. For FY 19, the residential water rate will increase from \$3.01 per 100 cubic feet (CF) to \$3.22 per CF. The residential sewer rate will increase from \$4.93 to \$5.32 per CF. 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 largest driver behind these rate increases is the ongoing and pressing need to re-invest in our aging water infrastructure system. The Commissioners work to ensure that capital project investment decisions are based on careful planning and analysis in order to ensure that ratepayer dollars are maximized to meet multiple goals. We understand how higher rates impact our customers, and the decision to raise rates for FY 19 was made after considering the long-term need to maintain system reliability and meet regulatory requirements while keeping rates affordable,” said Vanessa Otero, Chairwoman of the Board of Commissioners.



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The Commission also approved the proposed revisions to the Rules and Regulations, the FY 19 Total Operating Budget of \$78.5 million (which includes total operations and debt service), the FY 19 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget of \$106 million, and the three-year Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal years 2017-2019, which projects capital spending totaling \$138 million over the next three fiscal years. The FY 19 CIP 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 York Street Pump Station and Connecticut River Crossing Project will construct a new pump station to provide 30 million gallons/day of increased capacity, which will reduce combined sewer overflows into the Connecticut River during storm events. The old pump station will be also retrofitted to provide flood control, while three new pipes under the Connecticut River will be constructed to provide system redundancy to the two existing 85-year-old pipes. Other capital projects include upgrades to the West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant to meet forthcoming regulatory changes; repairs and rehabilitations to dams, reservoirs, and watershed infrastructure; and sewer and water infrastructure improvement projects within the distribution systems in Springfield and Ludlow.

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