



# **Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025**

Virtual Public Hearing May 30, 2024

### Welcome

### Jaimye Bartak, Communications Manager

### Agenda:

- Overview
- Budget Process
- Proposed CIP
- Proposed Budget & Rates
- Rules and Regulations
- Closing
- Questions and Comments





# Housekeeping



- Please keep your microphones muted
- Questions and answers will be taken following the presentation please limit to 3 minutes
- Participants may type questions or comments into the Q&A box at any time, or call in (413-261-6430, conf. ID: 210 036 547#) to speak at the conclusion (**press \*6 to speak**)
- Telephone participants will be called on using the last 4 digits of their telephone number to provide an opportunity to speak
- Spanish translation available / Traducción al español disponible
- Questions or comments can also be emailed to <u>info@waterandsewer.org</u> or directed to 413-452-1302 following this event
- If the event is disrupted for any reason, please go to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @SpfldWaterSewer for a new link and call-in information









# Who We Are

- Independent, public, regional utility
- Providers of essential services for 250,000 people
- Infrastructure from hilltowns to Belchertown
- Governed by 3-member Board of Commissioners appointed by Mayor, approved by City Council







# What We Do

### Reservoir to River

### Reservoirs



- 18,000 acres
   water supply
   forest
- 3 reservoirs (1872, 1909, 1930)
- 10 dams (1872-1960)

### Drinking Water Treatment



- 1 treatment
   plant (1909,
   1974)
- 1 power plant (1930)

# Transmission, Storage & Distribution System



- 3 transmission mains (1909, 1928, 1960)
- 3 storage tanks
- 579 miles water pipe
- 6,210 fire hydrants
- 19,742 valves
- 5 pump stations



#### Reservoir to River

### Collection System

#### Wastewater Treatment Plant

### Connecticut River



 473 miles sewer pipe



• 1 treatment plant (1939, 1972)



- 24 CSOs
- 1 WWTP discharge point



# What We Do

### Protect Public Health, Safety & the Environment

#### Safe Drinking Water Act (1974) (EPA)

- 90 Regulated Contaminants
- Stage 2 Disinfection Byproduct (DBPs) Rule (1999, 2012)
- Administrative Consent Order for DBPs (2024)
- Long-Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment
- Lead & Copper Rule
   (2020)
- Total Coliform Rule
- Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring
- Contaminant
   Candidate List
- PFAS Limits (2024)

#### Clean Water Act (1972) (EPA)

- NPDES Permit for Drinking
  Water Plant
- NPDES Permit for
   Wastewater Plant (2021)
- Biosolids regulations
- CSO Administrative Order for CSOs (2004)
- Nutrient Removal (Nitrogen TMDL for Long Island Sound)
- CMOM requirements

#### Mass DEP

- Water Management Act **(1986, 2023)**
- PFAS Limits (2020)
- Source Water
   Protection
- CSO Notification (2021)

#### **Other State/Federal**

- Endangered Species Act (1973)
- Wetlands Protection Act (1972)
- NHESP (1990)
- US Army Corps Section 404
- Dam/Levee Maintenance
- Risk & Resilience
   Assessments (2018)
- Emergency Preparedness
- Natural Hazard Mitigation
- Cybersecurity



## **How We Operate**

Funding By Type





# **Consumption Trends**

### Historic Trend



### **Federal Investment**



Federal Spending as a Percentage of Total Spending, by Sector 100% Percent of Public Spending on Infrastructure 75% through federal sources 50% 1956 996 968 970 976 978 2006 960 974 980 986 988 966 2000 2010 2012 2016 958 962 964 972 982 984 066 992 994 998 2002 2004 Highways Mass Transit and Rail -Aviation Water Utilities -Water Transportation Water Resources

Jackson water crisis caused by 'decades of under-investment,' says DOJ-appointed manager

Ted Henifin talks about the ongoing water crisis in Jackson, Mississippi.

By ABC NEWS February 20, 2023, 5,35 PM

OXES



Source: NACWA, et. al., "Water Infrastructure Funding Parity Report," 2022.

# **Rates & Project Financing**



#### **Local Project Financing Options**

- Revenue/cash (rates)
  - Most immediate impact on rates
- General Revenue Bonds (loans)
  - Highest cost

# **State & Federal Financing**

### State





- Loans through State Revolving Fund (SRF)
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding flows through SRF <u>loans</u>
- Partial loan forgiveness for disadvantaged communities

#### **Federal**



United States Environmental Protection Agency



• Loans

### Other <u>Occasional</u> Sources

- State environmental bond bill
- Federal environmental grants (wastewater)
- State watershed land protection grants
- State or Federal earmarks \$4.6M secured in FY24



- Launched in 2021
- \$250M WIFIA loan
- 20+ critically necessary infrastructure projects
- Most work occurring over the next 6 years
- Delivers water and wastewater system ready for 21<sup>st</sup> century demands
  - Regulatory compliance
  - Climate change
  - Science/technology advancements





### **Budget Process & Capital Plan**

### Josh Schimmel, Executive Director





### **Annual Budget Process**

#### Step 1: Develop Annual Spending Budget

- o Operations & Maintenance
- o Capital projects
- o Current and projected debt service

#### **Step 2: Forecast Annual Revenues**

o Based on past consumption trends

#### **Step 3: Identify Gaps in Budget vs. Projected Revenues**

- o Maintain target debt service coverage ratios
- o Maintain required reserves and adequate working capital

#### Step 4: Establish Rates Accordingly



### **Urgent Needs for Reinvestment**

#### • Aging infrastructure

- Threatens system reliability & regulatory compliance
- Infrastructure failure becoming more frequent

#### Advancing regulations

- New drinking water and wastewater standards
- Unfunded mandates from state, federal agencies
- Outdated technology not capable of responding

#### Climate change

- Stresses old infrastructure
- Impacts environmental conditions (reservoir water quality, watershed forest, etc.)
- Extreme weather patterns impact consumption patterns
- Security (physical & cyber)
  - Requires continual vigilance and upgrades
  - Risks constantly evolving



### **Climate Change Impacts**









### **Disinfection Byproducts (HAA5)**

#### Disinfection Byproducts (DBPs) - How Do They Form?

Unusually heavy rainfall carries additional organic material from the forest into the reservoir. Filters remove most of the organic material but some excess remains. When chlorine is added to filtered water it reacts with the remaining organics, forming DBPs.

Therefore, in months with high levels of organics in the raw water, there may be elevated DBPS in the distribution system.



# **Financial Planning**

### Foundation to Capital Improvements & Rate Stability

- Sound financial policies and practices provide:
  - ✓ Budget discipline
  - ✓ Controlled flexibility for the unexpected
  - ✓ Strong financial rating
  - Reduced borrowing costs & competitiveness for limited resources

#### • Proactive project planning ensures:

- ✓ Maximized value & ratepayer dollars
- Re-investment addresses:
  - ✓ Aging and failing infrastructure
  - ✓ Existing and future regulatory compliance
  - ✓ System modernization, climate change & cybersecurity
  - ✓ Risk reduction & increased reliability, resiliency



# **Reinvestment Strategy**

#### ✓ Seek savings in borrowing costs

- \$60M over 30 years (WIFIA) + \$32.9M over 20 years (SRF) + some loan forgiveness
- To reduce pressure on future rate increases

#### ✓ Advance accelerated project schedule

- o Compress 20-year capital plan into 6 years
- To reduce risk and increase reliability, sooner
- To reduce overall cost

#### ✓ Maintain financial flexibility

- Developed customized repayment schedule to minimize annual debt payments; operational resiliency
- To stabilize rate increases and position SWSC for potential grant funding



# Loan Forgiveness & Grants

2025

Total

\$6,574,812

\$34,404,076

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	Loan Forgiveness	Grants 2017-2024	Totals
2011	\$2,607,968	Columbia Gas (Eversource) Grant	\$1,028,838
-		MassDEP - CSO Monitoring	\$70,983
2012	\$1,110,353	Div. of Energy	\$2,000
2014	\$203,737	Executive Labor & Workforce Grant	\$2,800
2015	\$837,289	MA Clean Energy Center	\$226,412
		MA Woodland Forest Stewardship	\$59,757
2016	\$942,314	MEMA Grant	\$46,415
2017	\$526,813	Muni Energy Tech Grant	\$2,426
2021	\$4,892,418	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant	\$201,307
2021		PVPC (CSOs)	\$3,930,476
2021	\$747,377	Safety Training Grant	\$37,220
2023	\$2,970,000	Sewer Rate Relief Grant	\$89 <i>,</i> 631
2024	\$3,006,522	Storm Grant	\$3,480
2024	\$5,862,431	Water Supply Protection Grant	\$45,000
		Total	\$5,746,742
2024	\$4,122,042		



# **Customer Assistance Programs**

#### **Payment Plans**

• Equal Installment Option (fixed amount on scheduled dates)

#### Senior, Disabled, Disabled Veteran Discounts

Annual discount increasing to \$108 (administered as \$9.00 monthly credit)

#### Leak Surveys & Adjustments

- o Provide 1 free in-home leak survey to residential customers
- o One-time leak abatements up to \$500

#### **Customer Assistance Program (CAP)**

- Supports low-income, single-family homeowners with SWSC water and/or sewer accounts
- One-time, annual account credit up to 25% of average annual bill, utilizing Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) eligibility up to \$250

# **Projected Capital Spending & Rates**



## **FY25 Capital Improvement Program Budget**

WATER SUPPLY & TRANSMISSION	
Land Acquisition	\$ 300,000
Jabish Canal Culvert Replacement	\$ 85,000
Culvert Replc & Slope Repairs @ Borden Brook	\$ 75,000
Ludlow Reservoir Culvert Replacements	\$ 55,000
Watershed Culvert Replacements	\$ 80,000
Borden-Sugar Brook-Cobble Bridges Repair	\$ 426,000
B.Brook Dam Spillway & Brdg Replc	\$ 100,000
Dam No. 3 WTP Repairs	\$ 150,000
Diving Inspections	\$ 150,000
Drought Management Plan	\$ 250,000
Broome Gate House Drainage	\$ 60,000
Watershed Earthwork Repairs	\$ 1,275,000
Brush Fire Truck, Town of Blandford MA	\$ 50,000
Treatment System Assessment & Design	\$ 630,000
Water Treatment System Improvements	\$ 300,000
42" Raw Water Conduit Repair	\$ 750,000
WPF Chlorine Gas System	\$ 175,000
Vent Stack Repair - 42 Inch TM	\$ 100,000
Transmission System Rehabilitation	\$ 100,000
Flow Meters Water Transmission Mains	\$ 110,000
Provin Tank Condition Assessment	\$ 352,000
Provin Mtn Reservoirs Tanks 3 & 4 Improvements	\$ 150,000
Provin Mountain Security Fencing	\$ 150,000
WATER DISTRIBUTION	
Distribution System Rehabilitation	\$ 350,000
Hydrant Replacement Program	\$ 75,000
Distribution System Assessment & Design	\$ 75,000
Water Distribution System Leak Detection Program	\$ 175,000
Roadway Improvement Program	\$ 650,000
Wtr Main Replace-MA DOT Sumner Ave (X)	\$ 500,000

#### WASTEWATER COLLECTION

WASTEWATER COLLECTION	
Wastewater Reporting & Regulatory Compl	\$ 100,000
Collection Sys Rehab/Replace OnCall Contractor	\$ 150,000
Collection System Design	\$ 50,000
Collection System Cleaning & Assmt - WIFIA Progr	\$ 750,000
WASTEWATER TREATMENT	
Wastewater Treatment Improvements	\$ 75,000
Wastewater Regulatory Compliance	\$ 75,000
Regional Biosolids Study	\$ 300,000
POWER SUPPLY	
Broome Gate Repairs	\$ 71,000
ADMINISTRATION & ENGINEERING	
Commission Vehicles	\$ 500,000
Communications Equipment	\$ 170,000
Computers, Servers, Copiers	\$ 175,000
Building & Structure Improvements	\$ 1,037,000
Rolling Stock Equipment Replacement Program	\$ 633,000
Information Systems	\$ 176,000
Facilities Planning & Improvements	\$ 155,000
Land Acquisition (Non-Watershed)	\$ 300,000

#### **FY25 CIP Budget Total \$12,415,000** Funding Source: Revenue/Reserves

• Projects part of the 3 Year CIP



#### CIP Plan available at: https://waterandsewer.org/updates/public-notices/

### **FY25 3-Year Capital Improvement Program** FY26 & FY27

FY26 CIP Total \$12,947,300

FY27 CIP Total \$14,252,300

CIP Plan available at: https://waterandsewer.org/ updates/public-notices/

WATER SUPPLY & TRANSMISSION		FY26		FY27
Dam Maintenance/Various Locations	\$	380,000	\$	90,000
PFMA Action Items	\$	215,000	\$	-
Jabish Canal Culvert Replacement	\$	530,000	\$	-
Ludlow Reservoir Culvert Replacements	\$	561,000	\$	-
Watershed Culvert Replacements	\$	100,000	\$	100,000
B.Brook Dam Spillway & Brdg Replc	\$	250,000	\$	-
Cherry Valley Dam Repairs	\$	100,000	\$	-
Dam No. 2 WTP Removal	\$	600,000	\$	300,000
Treatment System Assessment & Design	Ś	500,000	Ś	500,000
Water Treatment System Improvements	\$	300,000	\$	300,000
Transmission System Rehabilitation	\$	100,000	\$	100,000
Flow Meters Water Transmission Mains	\$	200,000	\$	500,000
Provin Tank 1 Structural Monitoring & Surveys	\$	35,300	Ś	36,300
Provin Mountain Reservoirs Master Plan	Ś		ŝ	40,000
Meter Replacement	Ś	450,000	Ś	450,000
WATER DISTRIBUTION	Ģ	400,000	Ģ	400,000
	\$	450.000	\$	450.000
Distribution System Rehabilitation		450,000		450,000
Hydrant Replacement Program	\$	100,000	\$	100,000
Distribution System Assessment & Design	\$	250,000	\$	250,000
Water Distribution System Leak Detection Program	\$	225,000	\$	200,000
Roadway Improvement Program	\$	650,000	\$	650,000
Distribution Syst Main Annual Replacement	\$	-		2,250,000
Pump Station Improvements	\$	-	\$	100,000
Flood Control Pump Station Improvements	\$	250,000	\$	-
WASTEWATER COLLECTION				
Wastewater Reporting & Regulatory Compl	\$	100,000	\$	100,000
CSO Monitoring & Reporting	\$	100,000	\$	-
Collection Sys Rehab/Replace OnCall Contractor	\$	300,000	\$	300,000
Collection System Design	\$	600,000	\$	600,000
Collection System Cleaning & Assmt - WIFIA Program	n \$	1,400,000	\$	1,400,000
Collection System Rehab/Replacement	\$	100,000	\$	100,000
Sewer Rehibilitation 27-28 Constr Season	\$	-	\$	2,500,000
WASTEWATER TREATMENT				
Wastewater Treatment Improvements	\$	250,000	\$	250,000
Wastewater Regulatory Compliance	\$	100,000	\$	100,000
Power Supply Equipment Replacement	\$	125,000	\$	125,000
POWER SUPPLY				
Dewatering Inspections U1	\$	36,000	\$	36,000
ADMINISTRATION & ENGINEERING				
Commission Vehicles	\$	500,000	\$	500,000
Communications Equipment	\$	200,000	\$	200,000
Computers, Servers, Copiers	\$	200,000	Ś	200,000
	Ś	1,240,000	ŝ	375,000
-		-,,	4	010,000
Building & Structure Improvements	· ·	1.000.000	Ś	750.000
-	\$	1,000,000 350,000	\$ \$	750,000 200,000

### **Capital Projects**

### Darleen Buttrick, Director of Engineering





#### CAPITAL PROJECTS SCHEDULE - HIGHLIGHTS







### **Capital Improvement Program** Key Projects

- New West Parish Filters Water Treatment Plant
- 42" Raw Water Transmission Main & Facilities
- Hydropower Station
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades
- Water Distribution & Sewer Collection System Upgrades
- Unplanned Projects



### **New West Parish Water Treatment Plant**

- Replace existing 1920s and 1970s technology
- Addition of a new treatment step (Dissolved Air Flotation) to resolve disinfection byproducts exceedances
- Construction of 65 MGD water treatment plant



Rendering by Hazen & Associates



#### For more information & updates: waterandsewer.org/new-water-plant

#### Needs Addressed

- Regulatory compliance (HAA5)
- Replace end-of-life infrastructure
- Add redundancy and increase resiliency
- Reduce risk of catastrophic failure

#### **Project Status**



Estimated cost: \$325 million Financing/Funding Source: WIFIA, SRF, Grant Scheduled Project Completion: 2028

### **42"** Raw Water Transmission Main & Facilities

- Restoration of critical water transmission path
- Replacement of damaged valve
- Rehabilitation of damaged pipeline
- Increased water conveyance paths

#### Needs Addressed

- ✓ Improve water quality
- ✓ Restore redundancy to water conveyance
- ✓ Improve service reliability, resiliency

#### **Project Status**

DESIGN

CONSTRUCTION 0%

Estimated cost: \$34 Million Financing/Funding Source: WIFIA Estimated Project Completion: 2025



100%

## **Hydropower Station**

- Turbine rehabilitation
- Penstock rehabilitation and valve replacements
- Safety upgrades
- Updated technology
- Restoration of critical water path

#### **Needs Addressed**

- ✓ Replace end-of-life infrastructure
- ✓ Increase worker safety
- ✓ Increase green power generation & efficiency

#### **Project Status**

DESIGN	30%
CONSTRUCTION	0%

Estimated cost: \$25M Financing/Funding Source: WIFIA, Revenue Bond Estimated Project Completion: 2027





### **Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades**

- Electrical System Upgrades
- Nutrient reduction upgrades
- Grit removal/primary treatment upgrades



#### **Needs Addressed**

- ✓ Replace end-of-life infrastructure
- Support regulatory compliance
- ✓ Proactive maintenance
- ✓ Improve service reliability, resiliency

#### **Project Status**



Estimated cost: \$28,724,306 Financing/Funding Source: SRF Estimated Project Completion: 2025

### Water & Sewer Upgrades

- Planning and design of water infrastructure improvements at the X as part of the MassDOT roadway redesign projects
- Water transmission improvements on Birnie Ave
- Water main replacements on Liberty Street and Westford Circle
- Replacement of all galvanized service lines to meet new Lead & Copper Rule regulations
- Sewer lining on Plumtree & Wilbraham Roads

#### **Needs Addressed**

- ✓ Replace end of life infrastructure
- ✓ Preventative maintenance and replacement
- ✓ Improve service reliability
- ✓ Regulatory requirements

Estimated cost: Varied Financing/Funding Source: Revenue & WIFIA Estimated Project Completion: Varied





# **Unplanned Projects**

- Repair of water transmission main on Abbey Brook
- Repair of sewer cave-ins at St. Michael's Cemetery, Woodcliff Ave
- Riverside Drive

#### **Needs Addressed**

- ✓ Repair damaged infrastructure
- ✓ Increase resiliency of existing infrastructure
- ✓ Restore service reliability

Estimated cost: Abbey Brook \$1M, St. Michael's \$5M Financing/Funding Source: WIFIA, Revenue Estimated Project Completion: Varied





### **Proposed Budget & Rates**

#### Anthony Basile, Comptroller




### **Needed Revenues for FY25**



# **Total Spending by Category**

#### Budget - \$113,516,839



### **Total Spending by Function**

#### Budget - \$113,516,839



### **FY25 Operations & Maintenance Budget**

Operating Budget	Approved Budget FY 2024	Proposed Budget FY 2025
Operations:		
Personal Services	\$ 19,092,742	\$ 20,853,892
Fringe Benefits	12,609,024	13,737,415
Purchased Services	30,162,921	30,265,164
Supplies and Materials	4,426,390	4,246,990
Intergovernmental	665,074	606,479
Other charges and expenses	920,750	1,334,750
Capital outlay	448,446	392,246
Loan Service Charge	307,888	348,072
Total Operations	\$ 68,633,235	\$ 71,785,008
Debt Service:		
Principal Payment	17,416,220	18,922,790
Interest Expense	7,478,366	8,309,745
Total Debt Service	24,894,586	27,232,535
Total Operating Budget	\$ 93,527,821	\$ 99,017,543

### **Three Year Capital Plan**



#### Water and Sewer Rate Changes in FY25

# Converts to average household increase of \$7.99/month or 6.3%

	FY2024	FY2025	
	Eff. July 1,	Eff. July 1,	%
	2023	2024	Increase
Water:			
Residential & Commercial	\$4.75	\$5.15	8.5%
Industrial & Municipal	\$3.55	\$3.85	8.5%
Sewer:			
Residential & Municipal	\$7.51	\$7.85	4.5%
Commercial & Hospital	\$8.26	\$8.64	4.5%
Industrial	\$9.01	\$9.42	4.5%
Restaurant	\$9.76	\$10.20	4.5%
Combined Water and Sewer:			
Residential	\$12.26	\$13.00	
Annual Meter Fee	\$34.20	\$41.04	
Typical Annual Household Bill	\$1,505.40	\$1,601.24	6.3%

Note:

Rates above are for each 100 cubic feet (or 748 gallons) of metered water.

"Annual Household Bill" assumes single-family home with four residents consuming 120 HCF

### **Katie Shea**

#### Educational Outreach Manager





### **Updates to Rules & Regulations**

waterandsewer.org/rules-and-regulations

Section	FY25 Changes
Chapter 3; Section 3.2.11; Hydrants; Item 4:	<ul> <li>Update: Delete hydrant meter purchase and related text. Update: Any use of water from a metered hydrant for purposes other than extinguishing fires shall only occur pursuant to a Hydrant Permit obtained from the Commission [] Hydrant Meter Rental:</li> <li>A hydrant Meter with a back flow prevention device and pressure reducing valve, as needed, for the operation of the hydrant shall be provided to a Hydrant User upon payment of a deposit in accordance with CHAPTER 5 of these Rules and Regulations. The Commission may provide a hydrant wrench.</li> <li>The Hydrant User shall return the Meter, pressure reducing valve, wrench, and the Backflow Prevention Device to a designated maintenance facility as required by the Commission in order to have the Meter read and inspected.</li> </ul>
Chapter 3; Section 3.3.5; Meters and Meter Testing; Item 13:	<b>Update:</b> Properties with water services from other public utilities, that had an auxiliary meter installed by the Commission, will be allowed to continue to receive billing credits towards sewer charges on auxiliary meter use.
Chapter 4; Section 4.2.6; Meter Testing	<b>Update:</b> If a Meter Test requested by the Customer reveals that the Meter was over-recording by more than two percent (2%) in overall accuracy, based on AWWA's M6 Fifth Edition Manual of Water Supply Practices, the Commission shall abate and refund all Meter Test fees.

### **Updates to Rules & Regulations**

waterandsewer.org/rules-and-regulations

Section	FY25 Changes
Ch. 5; Section 5.1.1; Water Rates	Increased the water rates by 8.5%
Ch. 5; Section 5.1.2; Water Rates for all Bulk Water Haulers	Increased the water rates by 8.5%
Ch. 5; Section 5.1.3; Water Rates for Hydrant Users	Increased the water rates by 8.5%;
Ch. 5; Section 5.1.4; Fire Service Unauthorized Water Consumption	Increased the water rates by 8.5%
Ch. 5; Section 5.2; Monthly Service Charge	Increased all Monthly Service Charges proportionally including for residential, increased 0.57 per month
Ch. 5; Section 5.4; Allowance Program Discounts	Increased discount to \$9.00 per month.
Chapter 5; Section 5.5; Non- Beneficial Use Allowance	Increased the Non-Beneficial Use Allowance by 8.5%
Chapter 5; Section 5.6.12; Hydrant Meter Sale	Delete hydrant meter sale fees
Chapter 5; Section 5.6.24; Shut-off and Turn-on Charges:	Update 4" and greater to 3" and greater

# **Updates to Rules & Regulations**

#### waterandsewer.org/rules-and-regulations

Section	FY25 Changes
Ch. 5; Section 5.7; Sewer Rates	Increased residential, institutional, and municipal sewer rates by 4.5%
Ch. 5; Section 5.7; Sewer Rates	Increased Commercial and Medical Facility rate to 1.1 times the Residential rate. Increased the Wet Industry and Dry Industry to 1.2 times the Residential rate. Increased the Food Service Establishment rate to 1.3 times the residential rate.
Ch. 5; Section 5.9; Septage Disposal Rates for all Septage Haulers	Deleted FY 2024 and replaced with FY 2025
Ch. 5; Section 5.10; Non-residential surcharges at the SRWTF where applicable	Deleted FY 2024 and replaced with FY 2025 Increased rates by 4.5%.
Chapter 5; Section 5.14.4; New Water and Fire Service Pipe Fee:	Insert: Municipal \$75.00

Full Draft Changes to Rules and Regulations (including Chapter 5 Schedule of Rates, Fees, Charges & Penalties) available at: <u>https://waterandsewer.org/proposed-fy25-budget/</u>

# **Building Connections**

Educational Programs and Community Outreach

- Customer Outreach
- Public Presentations
- Neighborhood Council and Senior Center Presentations





# **Building Connections**

Educational Programs and Community Outreach

- Facility Tours and Open Houses
- Project updates
- Multimedia outreach







# **Building Connections**

#### Educational Programs and Community Outreach





- Educational Tours and Programs
- Collaboration with local schools, colleges, environmental groups
- Educational presentations for all ages
- Scholarships
- Internships
- Mobile Water Station & Public Education at Community Events

# **Charting New Pathways**

#### The Pipeline Program

Paid work-based learning summer internship program for 12 Springfield high school students

- Job-shadowing
- Hands-on skills
- Exposure to variety of water sector careers
- Offered in partnership with Veolia, Massachusetts Water Works Association, and Springfield Public Schools









### **Our People**

#### Delivering on Our Mission

• Essential to delivering water and wastewater service to our community

#### Our Water Workforce:

- Field Services/Construction
- Water Operations (treatment plant)
- Engineering
- Information Technology (IT)
- Watershed Management/Environmental Protection
- Laboratory Services
- Finance and Administration, and more!







### **Generational Reinvestment**







### **The Value of Water**

#### Essential to Everyday Life

A modern and reliable water and wastewater system is essential for:

- ✓ Daily life
- ✓ Public health
- ✓ Fire protection
- ✓ Economic development



### **Next Steps**

#### Recording of this presentation will be available

<u>https://waterandsewer.org/about-the-commission/commission-reports/</u>

#### **Commission Board Meeting / Vote on FY25 Budget**

- June 13, 2024, 10 A.M.
- Virtual meeting, public invited <u>https://tinyurl.com/2as2btkz</u>
   Call-in: 413-261-6430, conference ID 404 230 679#

#### **Questions and Comments Always Welcome**

info@waterandsewer.org or 413-452-1302

- Always Available, 24/7/365
  - Water and Sewer Emergencies: Call 413-310-3501
  - waterandsewer.org
  - @SpfldWaterSewer



# **Questions/Comments**

#### • For Participants on Telephone:

- Wait until moderator calls on last four digits of your number
- Dial \*6 to speak
- As a reminder, please keep comments to 3 minutes to allow time for all of those that may wish to speak.
- Please state your name and primary residential address
- For Participants on Computers & Mobile Devices:
  - Type question or comment into Q&A box
  - OR call 413-261-6430, Conference ID: 210 036 547# to speak
  - Please provide your name and address when submitting a question or comment



# **Preguntas/Comentarios**

#### • Para participantes vía teléfono:

- Espere al que el moderador llame los últimos 4 dígitos de su número de teléfono y luego ...
- Presione el número (\*) 6 para hablar
- Como recordar, los comentarios en tres minutos para dar tiempo a todos aquellos que deseen hablar, por favor.
- Para participantes utilizando su computadora o celular:
  - Utilice el cuadro de "preguntas y respuestas" para enviar sus preguntas o comentarios
  - O llame al 413-261-6430, Presione el Número de Identificación: 210 036 547# para hablar.
  - Por favor provea su nombre y dirección al someter su pregunta o comentario

