

# WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

## PUBLIC BUDGET & RATE HEARING FY2026 DECEMBER 16, 2025

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TIME: 5:56 P.M.

PLACE: The meeting was held at the Authority's Administration building located at 199 Foul Rift Road, Belvidere, New Jersey.

PURPOSE: For the purpose of prescribing a schedule of service charges for sewer treatment to the Town of Belvidere, Township of White, Township of Oxford, County of Warren, and all other users of the Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority.

### AUTHORITY MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Laurel Napolitani, Chairwoman  
Joseph Roth, Vice Chairman  
Gerald Norton, Secretary  
Anne Skoog

Angelo Accetturo, Treasurer - Absent

### ALSO ATTENDING:

John Inscho	Authority Executive Director
Kim Francisco	Authority Chief Financial Officer
Brian Tipton, Esq.	Authority Legal Counsel
Susan Wright	Administrative Assistant
Rita Gardner	Certified Court Reporter

Chairwoman Napolitani read the Introductory Statement. This annual budget and rate hearing has been properly noticed in accordance with New Jersey State Statutes.

Mr. Francisco stated that the appropriations for the 2026 budget have increased by \$66,719.00 from 2025. The total budget will be \$2,780,042.00. The increase is due to inflation affecting several items in the budget. Most line items remained the same and overall, the budget increased by \$66,719.00 or 2.46%.

To fund the 2026 budget, we will collect 2.5% more from our customers as we did in 2025 - \$2,710,042.00. This 2.5% increase is half of last year's increase of 5%. Because of inflation and increasing capital costs, we must increase our rates slightly each year.

The remaining balance of our revenue will come from interest income of approximately \$60,000.00 and miscellaneous income of \$10,000.00. This is the third year we will not be using any funds from our Rate Stabilization Fund to fund our operating budget. The operating budget will be fully funded by service fees and other miscellaneous revenues.

Our 2026 capital expenses are estimated at \$3,000,000.00; this includes a major improvement to the sludge thickener at the Belvidere plant. This will cost approximately \$2.1 million. In addition, we will spend \$500,000.00 to improve our Belvidere Water Street pump station. We will finance these projects totaling 2.9 million through the NJ State I-Bank.

Other smaller capital projects will be funded using the Unrestricted Net Position funds (surplus). These projects should total approximately \$100,000.00.

We have fourteen (14) users in our system. Meter readings are conducted monthly, and the meters are calibrated quarterly. Our billing cycle is from October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. This allows time for calculation and discussion for the upcoming calendar year. Billing is based on the average flow from the prior three years. For 2026, an I&I factor of 11% is applied across users. Each user's percent of the total water used is applied against the budget to determine their amount. For 2026, using the last three year average of gallons through our plants, we will be using 203,813 billing units to determine our rates. This is a 3% decrease from 2025 billing units. We had less flow go through our plants in 2025.

For 2026, our residential rate will be \$13.30 per one thousand gallons. Our residential rate was \$12.50 in 2025.

Our industrial rate of 2026 will be \$26.60, double the residential rate. In 2025, the industrial rate was \$25.00.

Our Connection Fee for 2026 will remain at \$7,000.00. In 2025, after several years without an increase, we increased the rate from \$6,642.00. based on the actual calculation, we could charge as high as \$13,165.00

Mr. Francisco asked if there were any questions or comments from Board members

There was no public present.

Mr. Francisco asked for a motion to approve the FY2026 budget.

Chairwoman Napolitani moved to adopt Resolution #25-40 to approve the FY2026 Rules & Regulations. Mr. Roth seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Mr. Roth moved to adopt Resolution #25-41 to approve the FY2026 Connection Fees. Ms. Skoog seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Ms. Skoog moved to adopt Resolution #25-42 to approve the FY2026 Operating and Capital Budgets, and Mr. Roth seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

As there was no further discussion, Mr. Norton moved, and Ms. Skoog seconded that the Public Rate Hearing be adjourned at 6:03 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.

Susan Wright  
Susan Wright  
Administrative Assistant

**RESOLUTION NO: 25-40**

**AMENDING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY TO INCORPORATE ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AUTHORITY'S FEE AND CHARGES FOR SEWER CONNECTIONS AND FOR SEWER TREATMENT SERVICES AND TO PROVIDE OTHER RATE AND FEE CHANGES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority (the Authority) has adopted rules and regulations entitled Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority - Service Rules (Rules and Regulations) pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40:14B-1 et seq.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has the right and obligation to change or amend, from time to time, its Rules and Regulations in order that they should continue to reflect the current operating requirements of the Authority; and

**WHEREAS**, public notice of the Authority's annual rate hearing as required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:14B-23 was timely provided; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 16, 2025, the Authority conducted a public hearing on its rates and fees and is of the opinion that the proposed revision to the connection fees and user rates should be adopted, and that the Rules and Regulations should be amended to reflect the same.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. A new Appendix C to the Authority's Rules and Regulations shall be included therein as follows:

## APPENDIX C

### WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY SCHEDULE OF SEWAGE TREATMENT SERVICE CHARGES AND CONNECTION FEES:

#### 1. General:

The Authority hereby sets forth the current applicable sewage treatment charges and connection fees as adopted by the Authority in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40:14B-22 and 23.

A) An additional 11% Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) factor shall be assessed on all users billed on a metered flow basis (either water use or sewer discharge), with the exception of Belvidere and Oxford whose metered flow includes system-wide I&I, in order to establish equitable allocation of system-wide I&I.

#### B) Sewage Treatment Services FY2026

Class of User	Rates
-Residential	\$13.30 per billing unit
-Industrial	\$26.60 per 1,000 gallons

#### C) Connection Fees FY2026\*

The FY 2026 connection fee shall remain at \$7,000.00. The amount of \$7,000.00 per EDU (equivalent dwelling unit) is less than the calculated amount of \$13,165.00.

\* Affordable housing projects built by Public Housing Authorities and non-profit organizations will receive a reduction of 50% in connection fees, pursuant to C40:14B-22.

2. The foregoing amendment to the Rules and Regulations shall take effect as of December 16, 2025, the date of its adoption by a majority of the Members of the Authority, and this Resolution shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that the amendment was approved by a majority of the Members of the Authority at that time.

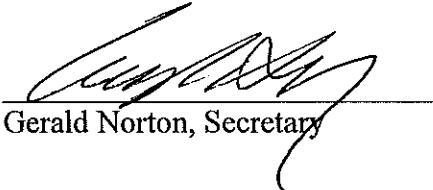
3. Except as otherwise provided herein, the Rules and Regulations of the Authority shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER)  
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

By:   
Laurel Napolitani, Chairwoman

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Gerald Norton, Secretary of the Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority, do certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a memorializing resolution adopted by a majority of all members of the Authority at a regular meeting of the Authority held on December 16, 2025, which resolution reduces to writing the formal action taken by the Authority with regard to its budget and rate schedule on December 16, 2025.

  
Gerald Norton, Secretary

**RESOLUTION NO: 25-41**

**APPROVAL OF CONNECTION FEES FOR FY2026**

**WHEREAS**, as per N.J.S.A. 40:14B-22 the Authority may charge connection fees, said fees to be calculated as outlined in said statute; and

**WHEREAS**, said calculation has been performed for FY2026, with the resulting fee and calculation thereof provided in the attachment hereto and;

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing has been held on Authority rates, at which time this calculation was presented.

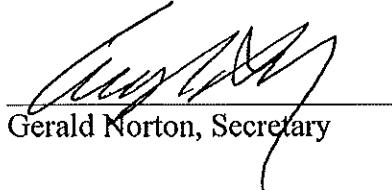
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Commissioners of the Warren County (Pequest River) Municipal Utilities Authority that the 2026 connection fee shall remain unchanged from 2025. This current amount of \$7,000.00 is less than the calculated amount of \$13,165.00 and shall hereby be adopted; the continuation of the current connection fee will remain in effect beginning January 1, 2026.

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER)  
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

  
Laurel Napolitani, Chairwoman

**CERTIFICATION**

**I, GERALD NORTON, SECRETARY OF THE WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER) MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY, DO CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE A TRUE COPY OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY A MAJORITY OF ALL MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 16, 2025.**

  
Gerald Norton, Secretary

# 2026 ADOPTED BUDGET RESOLUTION

Warren County - Pequest River Utilities Authority

**FISCAL YEAR: January 01, 2026 to December 31, 2026**

WHEREAS, the Annual Budget and Capital Budget/Program for the Warren County - Pequest River Utilities Authority for the fiscal beginning January 01, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026 has been presented for adoption before the governing body of the Warren County - Pequest River Utilities Authority at its open public meeting of December 16, 2025; and

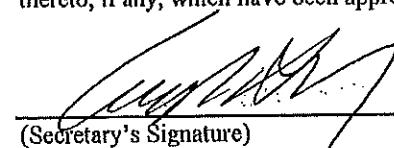
WHEREAS, the Annual Budget and Capital Budget as presented for adoption reflects each item of revenue and appropriation in the same amount and title as set forth in the introduced and approved budget, including all amendments thereto, if any, which have been approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Budget presented for adoption reflects Total Revenues of \$2,780,042.00, Total Appropriations, including any Accumulated Deficit, if any, of \$2,780,042.00, and Total Unrestricted Net Position utilized of \$0.00; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Budget as presented for adoption reflect Total Capital Appropriations of \$3,000,000.00 and Total Unrestricted Net Position Utilized of \$100,000.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the Warren County - Pequest River Utilities Authority at an open public meeting held on December 16, 2025 that the Annual Budget and Capital Budget/Program of the Warren County - Pequest River Utilities Authority for the fiscal year beginning January 01, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026 is hereby adopted and shall constitute appropriations for the purposes stated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Annual Budget and Capital Budget/Program as presented for adoption reflects each item of revenue and appropriation in the same amount and title as set forth in the introduced and approved budget, including all amendments thereto, if any, which have been approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

  
(Secretary's Signature)

December 16, 2025

(Date)

## Governing Body Recorded Vote

Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Aangelo Accetturo				X
Laurel Napolitani	X			
Gerad Norton	X			
Joseph Roth	X			
Anne Skoog	X			