

WARREN COUNTY (PEQUEST RIVER)
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

PUBLIC BUDGET & RATE HEARING FY2021
DECEMBER 15, 2020

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

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

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:

Donald Niece, Chairman
Chad Chamberlain, Secretary
Robert Piazza, Treasurer
Sidney Deutsch
Drew Kiszonak
Laurel Napolitani – via Zoom
Robert Nyland
Everdina O'Connor – via Zoom
Morris Scott, Jr. – via Zoom

ALSO ATTENDING:

Kevin Shoudt	Authority Consultant
Kim Francisco	Authority Chief Financial Officer
Stephen Donati	Authority Engineer – via Zoom
Brian Tipton, Esq.	Authority Legal Counsel – via Zoom
Susan Wright	Administrative Assistant

Chairman Niece 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 2021 budget have decreased by \$45,000.00 from 2020. The total budget will be \$2,784,744.00; reduction is due to \$25,000.00 decrease in Debt Services and \$20,000.00 decrease in consultant contract. Most of the line items remain the same. Debt Service accounts for 40% of our budget.

To fund the 2021 budget, we will collect the same amount from our customers as we did in 2020 - \$2,174,744.00. This is the 6th year in a row that we have kept the amount collected from our customers the same. Budget is 2.7 million dollars and we will collect 2.1 million dollars. The balance will come from interest income of approximately \$7,000.00; miscellaneous income of \$10,000.00; and funds from our Rate Stabilization Fund of \$592,300.00. We will be using \$32,300.00 more from the Rate Stabilization Fund as we will not be able to anticipate as much interest in 2021 from the sharp decrease in the interest rates that we earn on our idle funds.

We have fourteen users in our system. Meter readings are conducted monthly and the meters are calibrated quarterly. Our billing cycle is from October 1st through September 31st. Billing is based on the average flow from the prior four years. For 2021 an I&I factor of 11% is applied. Each user's percent of the total water used is applied against the budget to determine their amount. He explained the process used to determine the rates in more detail. The residential user rate for 2021 will be \$10.06 per billing unit, which is less than 2020 (\$10.30). The industrial user rate for 2021 is \$20.12 per 1,000 gallons, compared to \$20.60 in 2020.

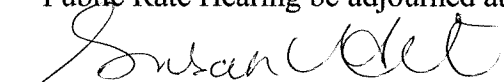
Our Connection Fee for 2021 will remain the same at \$6,642.00 per EDU for single family home to hook up to our system. The rate has remained the same for several years. We could charge as much as \$9,866.00 based on the State formula; however, we feel that the \$6,642.00 is adequate

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

Chairman Niece then asked if there was any comments or questions from the public.

There was public present, via Zoom, but there were no comments

As there was no further discussion, Mr. Scott moved, and Ms. O'Connor seconded that the Public Rate Hearing be adjourned at 7:43 p.m. All in favor, motion carried.



Susan Wright
Administrative Assistant