



PORT WASHINGTON WATER DISTRICT

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Port Washington Water District Implements Slight Rate Adjustment in 2019

Increased Revenue Will Fund Various Infrastructure Upgrades to Improve Water Quality and Distribution System Resiliency

Port Washington, NY (January 8, 2019) – The Port Washington Water District (PWWD) would like to notify its customers that a slight rate adjustment will be implemented beginning January 1, 2019. The additional revenue will help the District pay for past, current and future infrastructure projects needed to ensure the health and safety of the water supply. The rate adjustment also means the District will remain the two percent tax cap.

“The District works continuously to provide residents of the Port Washington community with the highest quality water at the lowest possible cost,” said PWWD Board of Commissioner Chairman David Brackett. “The costs of running a water district continue to climb as we are met with increased operational challenges and more stringent testing parameters. We are always working to maximize efficiencies, identifying areas for cost savings while maintaining our unwavering commitment to the health and safety of our water supply and distribution system.”

The District’s 2019 expense budget will be \$6,733,992. A thorough review of the present water rate structure and property taxes with respect to the fiscal needs of the 2019 budget was conducted in 2018 to determine the amount of revenue needed to make ends meet. In order to remain within the two percent tax cap and maintain a high level of service and reliability in regards to the critical drinking water infrastructure, an increase to water rates was necessary. For the average homeowner and water user, this rate adjustment means an increase of approximately \$1.14 per month.

“We are always striving to cut costs where appropriate and maximize economies of scale, but the rising costs for infrastructure and operations are simply outpacing our ability to reduce spending,” said PWWD Commissioner Peter Meyer. “Maintaining old and building new infrastructure on top of the costs of each year is not cheap. However, we are thankful our residents understand these increasing challenges and continue to support our effort to supply the Port Washington community with a safe and reliable water system.”

Aside from the actual cost of purchasing equipment, materials and chemicals, debt service—which represents capital investment into the community’s water system—will increase by over \$ \$140,000 when compared to the 2018 budget. The increase in debt service is attributed to the following major capital projects that have been completed or are currently underway throughout the District since 2012:

1. Installed a nitrate treatment facility at Well No. 4 to lower nitrate levels
2. Installed a packed tower aeration treatment system at Well No. 6 to treat the water for organic chemicals
3. New service lines, fire hydrants and over 4,000 feet of 8-inch water mains were installed in the Manhasset Isle area
4. Replaced approximately 4,500 feet of water main on Circle Drive
5. Rehabilitated Sandy Hollow Wells No. 1 and 2, Neulist Well No. 1, and Wells No. 7 and 11 to improve reliability and production.
6. Installed new access hatches and vents on the Neulist underground storage tank
7. Made repairs to the Southport elevated water storage tank
8. Replaced the booster and transfer pumps at the Christopher Morley Park water treatment plant.
9. Construction of the new Beacon Hill water tower

“Our board continues to take a proactive approach to ensure our community’s water systems stay ahead of the curve and the future of our infrastructure assets are reliable and resilient,” said PWWD Commissioner Mindy Germain. “Even with this significant amount of capital investment and improvements to our supply and distribution system, the District will remain within the two percent property tax cap established for 2019. However, water rates will need to be adjusted to provide an additional \$189,630 in projected revenue to avoid piercing the cap.”

For more specific rate information, please visit the District’s website at www.pwwd.org. If you have additional questions about the rate adjustment, water quality, or anything else regarding your water service, please feel free to contact the District at 516-767-0171 or by email at info@pwwd.org.