

September 6, 2018

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Port Washington Water District was held at the District offices located at 38 Sandy Hollow Road, Port Washington, New York, on Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 7:00pm.

PRESENT:

COMMISSIONERS:

David Brackett, Chairman  
Peter Meyer, Secretary  
Mindy Germain, Treasurer

Paul J. Granger, P.E., Superintendent

Also Present  
Neera Roopsingh, Town Attorney's  
Office, Town of North Hempstead

The meeting was called to order by David R. Brackett, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, with the Pledge to the flag.

The purpose of the meeting was to hold Public Hearings to discuss the 2019 Budget and proposed water rate increase.

The budget hearing commenced with a presentation provided by Supt. Granger. Major budget categories and highlights were reviewed. Major categories include power for plants and wells, capital outlay for well and pump rehabilitation projects and debt service. The 2019 expense budget will be \$6,733,992 which represents a 2.5 percent increase when compared to the 2018 budget. The Water District will be able remain within the 2 percent property tax cap established for 2019. However, to stay within the tax cap, water rates will be required to be increased by 4.2 % which will generate \$189,630 in projected revenue. This increase will represent an annual water bill increase of \$13.67 or \$ 1.14 per month for the average residential customer.

The following motion was made.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Brackett put forth a motion to approve the 2019 Annual Budget. The Board was polled as follows:

Commissioner Brackett	- Yea
Commissioner Meyer	- Yea
Commissioner Germain	- Yea

By unanimous vote of all three Commissioners, the motion was passed to approve the 2019 Annual Budget and forward same to the Town of North Hempstead.

The Public Hearing on the 2018 Budget was adjourned at 7:10 PM.

At 7:15 pm Commissioner Brackett opened the Public Hearing to consider an increase to the District's water rates for 2019.

Commissioner Brackett read the following statement:

Good evening everyone and thank you for coming. I'm David Brackett, Chairman of the Port Washington Water District Board of Commissioners. I'm joined today by my fellow commissioners, Peter Meyer and Mindy Germain, as well as our Superintendent, Paul Granger, and we are here to discuss a rate adjustment that is going into effect beginning on January 1, 2019.

The Port Washington Water District (PWWD) works hard to provide its customers with the highest quality water at the lowest possible cost while ensuring unwavering compliance with all federal, state and local regulations. We are dedicated to improving efficiencies wherever possible and cutting costs when the opportunity exists. In fact, we have been able to hold water rates constant for two years, despite the increasing costs of energy, major infrastructure protection and water-quality testing.

Through previous communications and by gathering here tonight, we would like to inform you that, despite our best efforts, stricter environmental and security regulations, water quality standards and capital improvement project costs, it is necessary for the District to implement a modest rate adjustment.

The District has put forward this rate adjustment after thoroughly reviewing the present structure of water rates and property taxes with respect to the fiscal needs of the 2019 budget. The rate adjustment is needed to remain within the 2 percent tax cap and maintain the high level of service reliability of our critical drinking water infrastructure.

Debt service, which represents capital investment into the water system, will increase by \$140,747 when compared to the 2018 budget. The increase in debt service is attributed to the major capital projects that have been completed or are currently underway throughout the District.

- Since 2012, the District has undertaken the following infrastructure improvements:
- Installed a nitrate treatment facility at Well No. 4 to lower nitrate levels
- Installed a packed tower aeration treatment system at Well No. 6 to treat the water for organic chemicals
- New service lines, fire hydrants and over 4,000 feet of 8-inch water mains were installed in the Manhasset Isle area
- Replaced approximately 4,500 feet of water main on Circle Drive
- Rehabilitated Sandy Hollow Wells No. 1 and 2, Neulist Well No. 1, and Wells No. 7 and 11 to improve reliability and production.
- Installed new access hatches and vents on the Neulist underground storage tank
- Made repairs to the Southport elevated water storage tank
- Replaced the booster and transfer pumps at the Christopher Morley Park water treatment plant.
- Construction of the new Beacon Hill water tower

Each one of these vital projects is needed to improve the reliability and resiliency of our aging infrastructure as well as address concerns about water quality. Even with a significant amount of capital investment, the District will be able remain within the 2 percent property tax cap established for 2019. However, to stay within the tax cap in the coming years, water rates will need to be adjusted to provide an additional \$189,630 in projected revenue.

The rate adjustment will, on average, have a \$1.14 per month or \$13.67 per year increase to the typical homeowners' water bill.

Commissioner Meyer offered the following resolution which was seconded by Commissioner Brackett and carried by all members of the Board:

**WHEREAS**, the Port Washington Water District after review has determined to make changes to the present water rate structure for residential, commercial and fire line services, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Port Washington Water District did place an advertisement in the August 22, 2018 edition of the Port Washington News and on the District's website, and in addition at the District office, bulletin board. advertising a public hearing to be held at the Port Washington Water District, 38 Sandy Hollow Road, Port Washington, New York on September 6, 2018 at 7:00pm, for the purpose of considering a proposed increase in water rates, and;

**WHEREAS**, the public hearing was held pursuant to said advertisement on September 6, 2018, at which time any and all interested parties could be heard regarding the proposed water rate increase, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners of the Port Washington Water District have determined that the increase in water rates are necessary and justified.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of Commissioners of the Port Washington Water District, by unanimous vote, hereby resolves as follows:

Section 1: That after conducting the advertised public hearing, the proposed water rate increase, of 4.2 %, is hereby approved and adopted.

Section 2: The new water rate increases as adopted by this resolution shall take effect with the beginning of the first quarter billing for 2019.

The above RESOLUTION was offered by Commissioner Peter Meyer and was seconded by Commissioner Mindy Germain.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Commissioner Brackett Aye

Commissioner Meyer Aye

Commissioner Germain Aye

Approved and so ordered

There being no further comments, Commissioner Brackett adjourned the Water Rate Public Hearing at 7:30 pm.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting held on September 6, 2018.

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Peter Meyer, Secretary

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