



Commissioners
William "Zee" Zielinski
William L. Morin
Chairman - **Robert E. Corey**

Gary W. McCarthy
Executive Director/Superintendent

Mark R. Riopelle
Assistant Superintendent

Debra H. Vinal
Treasurer

Dear Ratepayer,

On January 23rd the Board of Water Commissioners with the recommendation of the Superintendent voted to increase all water rates and fees by 5%. While I am sensitive to the difficulties facing all of us in this economically challenged time I would like to outline the substantial impacts at the District that support this increase.

First the District has not had a full increase of rates or fees since 1999. One increase was made in the amount of 5% exclusively to provide additional funds to replace aging water mains.

The second increase in 2006 was used to help our annual budget needs. This rate increase was on the base residential rate and commercial water rates only.

I think we can all agree that in almost 9 years the water rates have remained low and always used to offset programs that have increased water quality, replaced aging mains and add substantially to the enhancement of the overall water system.

With electric increases and natural gas rate increases, gasoline increases and most recently a 14% increase in water rates from the City of Lowell our budget can't continue without a reasonable approach to cover these costs. This 5% rate increase will not completely cover the increases. We will continue to be vigilant with spending we can control and conserve where possible our uncontrolled costs.

I have advised the Board while this is helpful it was certainly long overdue and will not cover our added expenses. However to ignore the increasing costs will only mean cut backs on main replacements, hydrant installations and upgrades as well as cut backs on pumping stations all of which deliver vastly improved service from previous years.

Also I wish to remind customers that we still maintain a credit to senior citizens and a credit for customers that conserve and use less than the minimum each billing cycle.

I assure you every effort will continue to be made to maintain and improve your water system so as to deliver to you our customers the best possible water quality while being mindful of costs under our control.

Gary W. McCarthy
Executive Director/Superintendent