

*Upper Mohawk Valley Regional Water Board
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE MVWA WILL HOLD A PUBLIC RATE HEARING ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 22 AT 5:00

The Mohawk Valley Water Authority (MVWA) will hold a public rate hearing at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 22, 2018. **Unlike prior years, the rate hearing will be held in the MVWA's Board room on the third floor of Utica City Hall.** The Board of the MVWA is considering a rate increase of 2.0% to take effect on January 1, 2019.

If approved, the rate change will equate to approximately \$7.84 per year in higher water costs for the average household, or about 65 cents per month. The total proposed budget for the coming fiscal year is approximately \$24.9 million.

Some factors considered in the proposed budget include:

1. An overall increase in operating costs of 3.3%.
2. Cash capital maintenance and repairs funded at \$600,000.
3. Workers compensation premiums are projected to increase 10-15%.
4. Property and Liability insurance premiums are expected to rise by 10-15%.

The rate increase has been partially offset by a modest decline in debt and PILOT payments of \$43,000. The proposed budget is also supported by \$815,000 in cash carried forward from accumulated surpluses from prior years.

The MVWA Board of Directors will also be considering the creation of a new industrial water rate schedule that would apply only to very large users drawing in excess of 1.5 million gallons per day (MGD) on average. Under this proposed schedule, the first 1.5 MGD would be charged

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at the current rate for monthly business customers. However, any usage exceeding that amount within a 30-day billing cycle would be charged at a reduced rate. The industrial rate schedule is being proposed in order to help support industrial economic development and job creation. There are currently no customers within the MVWA system using that amount of water.

In addition, the MVWA Board will be considering miscellaneous increases in fees for some specific services as well as modifications to our general rules and regulations.

The MVWA Board of Directors will be considering the proposed rate structure at its regular monthly meeting to be held at approximately 5:30 p.m. on October 22, or after the conclusion of the public rate hearing. The board meeting will also take place at the MVWA Board room on the third floor of Utica City Hall.

The Mohawk Valley Water Authority is a regional agency that provides drinking water to approximately 126,000 customers throughout 18 municipalities in Oneida and Herkimer Counties. Contact the MVWA at 792-0301 or on the web at www.mvwa.us

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