



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

JOHN DELUCA
Director

March 25, 2019

Honorable President and Members of the City Council:

Pursuant to Chapter 11, Section 11-125 and Section 11-164 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Somerville, the tables below outline the proposed water and sewer volumetric rates for the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20). The FY20 rate proposal represents the following changes to the current rates:

1. A 6% increase in water volumetric charges;
2. A 7.5% increase in sewer volumetric charges;
3. No change to existing base charges for both water and sewer; and,
4. The creation of a discount rate for all rate payers billed tri-annually.

The table on the next page describes the proposed residential tiers, which reflect the addition of a 'discount' tier for any usage under 8 units [748 gallons per unit x 8 units, or 5,984 gallons of water].

Table 1: Proposed FY20 Residential Volumetric Charges (tri-annual bills)

		FY2020 Residential Volumetric Charges (\$/billing unit*)		
Tier	Tier Range (per CCF)	Water	Sewer	Combined
Discount rate (<i>new</i>)	0-8	\$3.95	\$7.93	\$11.88
T1	9-13	\$4.39	\$8.82	\$13.21
T2	14-67	\$6.33	\$11.24	\$17.57
T3	68-133	\$6.64	\$11.79	\$18.43
T4	OVER 133	\$6.89	\$12.21	\$19.10

*One unit = 100 cubic feet (CCF) or 748 gallons of water

Table 2: Proposed FY20 Commercial Volumetric Charges (bi-monthly bills)

			FY2020 Commercial Volumetric Charges (\$/billing unit*)		
	Tier	Tier Range (per CCF)	Water	Sewer	Combined
	T1	0-10	\$4.39	\$8.82	\$13.21
	T2	11-100	\$6.33	\$11.24	\$17.57
	T3	101-200	\$6.64	\$11.79	\$18.43
	T4	OVER 200	\$6.89	\$12.21	\$19.10

*One unit = 100 cubic feet (CCF) or 748 gallons of water

Table 3: Total change in year-over-year cost for combined water and sewer rates

Total change in annual cost for various billing units (including base and volumetric charges)				
		FY19	FY20	
		Annual total	Annual total	Change (FY20-FY19) % change
	8 (example low-water use)	\$476	\$465	-\$11 -2.3%
	15 (example 1 to 2 person household) ²	\$760	\$769	\$9 1.2%
	41 (example of 3-family home) ³	\$2,042	\$2,140	\$98 4.8%
	87 (example of typical restaurant) ³	\$4,358	\$4,617	\$259 5.9%
	136 (example of typical apartment building with more than 8 units) ³	\$6,897	\$7,332	\$436 6.3%

¹ The examples were chosen in order to provide a range of property types in Somerville.

² Based on US Geological Survey estimate of 80 to 100 gallons of water use per person per day.

³ Based on the median usage of the applicable property type in Somerville

For additional information about these proposed water and sewer rate changes, please see the rate recommendation memorandum from our consultant, Woodard & Curran.

An information session and public hearing is scheduled for 6:00PM on Monday, April 22nd, at the Somerville High School Cafeteria at 81 Highland Avenue. The information session will start at 6:00PM and provide an opportunity to address questions on the FY20 water and sewer rate proposal. The public hearing to take testimony regarding the FY20 water and sewer rate proposal will start at 6:30PM immediately following this information session. Additional Q&A time will be offered following the public hearing if attendees have remaining topics of discussion.

Following the public hearing, written testimony will be accepted via e-mail at water@somervillema.gov for 48 hours. Testimony can also be submitted in advance at the same e-mail address.

If you have any questions, please contact me at jdeluca@somervillema.gov.

