

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
WATER & SEWER DEPARTMENT
MAYOR KATJANA BALLANTYNE**

KELLIE A. HEBERT, MPA
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Date: June 12, 2025
To: City Council
From: Kellie Hebert, Director of Finance and Administration
RE: FY2026 Water & Sewer Rates

Honorable Members of the City Council,

The enclosed tables outline the proposed changes and recommendations for the City's water and sewer rates for Fiscal Year 2026. Water enterprise revenues must increase 18%, and sewer enterprise revenues must increase 12% to ensure that critical repairs, ongoing maintenance, and capital improvements can be made to our aging water and sewer infrastructure.

Along with the required revenue increases, a simplified rate structure is proposed for residential customers, reducing the current five-tier volumetric rate system to three (3) tiers. While the volumetric rates for residential usage will generate more revenue, the rates themselves will not increase at these levels given the proposed simplification to the residential rate structure.

FY2026 recommendations include:

1. An 18% increase in revenues from water volumetric charges;
2. A 12% increase in revenues from sewer volumetric charges;
3. Changes to the existing base charges for larger meters for both water and sewer;
4. Changes to the tiered rate structure for residential accounts (reduced to 3 tiers); and,
5. Establish quarterly billing schedules for all accounts.

A public hearing was advertised and held virtually and in person at the Tufts Administration Building Conference Room on **Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 6:00 pm.**

Respectfully, I request your approval of the attached proposals for FY2026.

Thank you,
Kellie A. Hebert, MPA
Director of Finance and Administration





TABLE 1: Proposed FY2026 Residential Volumetric Charges (Water & Sewer)

RESIDENTIAL VOLUMETRIC CHARGES					
	Usage Range/CCF		\$Rate/Unit		
Tier	Tri-Annual	Quarterly	WATER	SEWER	COMBINED
1	0-12	0-9	\$7.30	\$12.51	\$19.81
2	13-24	10-18	\$9.13	\$15.63	\$24.76
3	Over 24	Over 18	\$10.95	\$18.76	\$29.71

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

TABLE 2: Proposed FY2026 Commercial Volumetric Charges (Water & Sewer)

COMMERCIAL VOLUMETRIC CHARGES					
	Usage Range/CCF		\$Rate/Unit		
Tier	Bi-Monthly	Quarterly	WATER	SEWER	COMBINED
1	0-13	0-19	\$7.28	\$14.02	\$21.30
2	14-67	20-100	\$10.48	\$17.89	\$28.37
3	68-133	101-200	\$10.97	\$18.76	\$29.73
4	Over 133	Over 200	\$11.41	\$19.42	\$30.83

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

TABLE 3: Proposed FY2026 Water Base Charges

WATER ENTERPRISE			RESIDENTIAL		COMMERCIAL		ALL CLASSES		
Meter Size	Scaling		Tri-Annual		Bi-Monthly		Quarterly	Annually	
	Current	AWWA	FY25	FY26	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY25	FY26
5/8"	1.00	1.00	\$20	\$20	\$10	\$10	\$15	\$60	\$60
3/4"	1.00	1.50	\$20	\$30	\$10	\$15	\$22.50	\$60	\$90
1"	1.00	2.50	\$20	\$50	\$10	\$25	\$37.50	\$60	\$150
1 1/2"	2.00	5.00	\$40	\$100	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$120	\$300
2"	3.20	8.00	\$64	\$160	\$32	\$80	\$120	\$192	\$480
3"	6.00	21.75	\$120	\$435	\$60	\$217.50	\$326.25	\$360	\$1,305
4"	10.00	37.50	\$200	\$750	\$100	\$375	\$562.50	\$600	\$2,250
6"	20.00	80.00	\$400	\$1,600	\$200	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$4,800
8"	20.00	140.00	\$400	\$2,800	\$200	\$1,400	\$2,100	\$1,200	\$8,400

*American Water Works Association meter equivalency factors

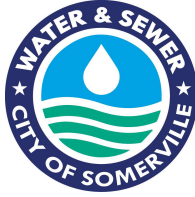


TABLE 4: Proposed FY2026 Sewer Base Charges

SEWER ENTERPRISE			RESIDENTIAL		COMMERCIAL		ALL CLASSES		
Meter Size	Scaling		Tri-Annual		Bi-Monthly		Quarterly	Annually	
	Current	AWWA	FY25	FY26	FY25	FY26	FY26	FY25	FY26
5/8"	1.00	1.00	\$40	\$40	\$20	\$20	\$30	\$120	\$120
3/4"	1.00	1.50	\$40	\$60	\$20	\$30	\$45	\$120	\$180
1"	1.00	2.50	\$40	\$100	\$20	\$50	\$75	\$120	\$300
1 1/2"	2.00	5.00	\$80	\$200	\$40	\$100	\$150	\$240	\$600
2"	3.20	8.00	\$128	\$320	\$64	\$160	\$240	\$384	\$960
3"	6.00	21.75	\$240	\$870	\$120	\$435	\$653	\$720	\$2,612
4"	10.00	37.50	\$400	\$1,500	\$200	\$750	\$1,125	\$1,200	\$4,500
6"	20.00	80.00	\$800	\$3,200	\$800	\$1,600	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$9,600
8"	20.00	140.00	\$800	\$5,600	\$800	\$2,800	\$4,200	\$2,400	\$16,800

**American Water Works Association meter equivalency factors*