

WINTERPORT WATER DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Winterport Water District is providing notice to its customers that a Public Hearing will be held on March 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Winterport Town Office at 44 Main Street to discuss and hear comments on a proposed water rate increase. Water rates were last increased in 2012. Due to rising operational costs and aging infrastructure, the Water District must raise rates to both maintain and improve its existing infrastructure and to properly operate the water system. The total amount of the proposed rate increase for all categories is approximately \$35,306 or 11 percent in most categories. For the typical residential customer, the minimum charge for 900 cubic feet of water usage will increase from \$111.47 per billing quarter to \$123.73 per billing quarter or by 11 percent. For the typical residential customer, this is an increase of \$12.26 per billing quarter. For the typical commercial/governmental customer, the minimum charge for 1200 cubic feet of water usage will increase from \$137.98 per quarter to \$153.16 per billing quarter or by 11 percent. For the typical commercial/governmental customer, this is an increase of \$15.18 per billing quarter. The impact to larger meters is a 11% increase from the respective quarterly bill. Usage charges have been increased from \$8.83 per 100 cubic feet to \$9.80 per 100 cubic feet which is an increase of 11 percent. The basis of all usage charges remains as previously designed. Public Fire Protection rates, determined pursuant to Chapter 69 of the Public Utility Commission rules, will increase from \$85,692 to \$95,400. Rates are proposed to become effective on April 1, 2023.

This rate increase adjustment is required to cover increased operational costs necessary to properly maintain and operate the water system and the existing debt (principal and interest) costs incurred for distribution system improvements.

The Winterport Water District is submitting this request for a rate change to the PUC pursuant to Title 35-A M.R.S. §6104. Pursuant to 35-A M.R.S. §6104, a customer has the right to request additional information relating to the present and proposed rates from the Water District, the right to an open and fair hearing, and the right to assistance from the Public Advocate. Customers also have the right under 35-A M.R.S. §6104 to petition the Maine Public Utilities Commission to suspend and investigate the District's rates pursuant to 35-M.R.S. Section 310, 15% of the Water District's customers file with the Winterport Water District's Chairman, Stephen Long, and with the Public Utilities Commission, State House Station #18, Augusta, ME 04333-0018, a petition or petitions demanding review by the PUC of the proposed rate changes. Signatures on the petitions filed pursuant to Section 7 are invalid unless accompanied by the printed names and addresses of the signers. Upon request, the Water District will provide customers with petition forms that include space for the signatures and the printed names and addresses of the signers.

A copy of material supporting the proposed rate increase will be available at the Winterport Water District Office at 34 Sampson Street for inspection on or after February 24, 2023. If you have any questions or desire additional information, you may call Annaleis Hafford, Water District Manager at 223-2232 or the PUC at 287-3831. For additional assistance, contact the Public Advocate, State House Station #112, Augusta, Maine 04333-0112, 624-3687.

PUC CASE NUMBER 2023-00031