

## **Subject: Water & Sewer Authority – Financial Review and Public Information Process**

Dear Residents,

Over the past several months, there has been significant public discussion regarding matters involving the Watertown Water & Sewer Authority, including the *Waterbury v. Watertown* litigation and related financial considerations affecting the Town's water and sewer systems.

With those matters now substantially addressed, the focus moving forward is on responsible financial planning, infrastructure sustainability, and maintaining transparency in how the Town manages its water and sewer enterprise systems. As part of this effort, the Watertown Town Council has established a bipartisan committee to review existing policies and provide recommendations regarding governance, communications, and risk management practices associated with the Water & Sewer Authority. This review is intended to ensure that the Town's policies remain clear, consistent, and aligned with best practices as the Authority continues its work.

At the same time, the Water & Sewer Authority will be conducting a structured review of its financial conditions and long-term planning considerations. This process will include regular Authority meetings, public posting of financial materials, and plain-language explanations intended to help residents better understand how the water and sewer enterprise funds operate and how financial planning decisions are evaluated.

Water and sewer services operate as enterprise funds, meaning they are supported through system revenues rather than property taxes. As part of the current review, the Authority will be evaluating operational costs, wastewater treatment expenses, infrastructure investment needs, and long-term financing considerations.

To support transparency and access to information, a dedicated section has been added to the Town's website where residents can follow this process and review materials as they become available:

[www.watertownct.org](http://www.watertownct.org) → Departments → Water & Sewer → Rate & Financial Planning Updates

Information posted there will include:

- Plain-language explanations of financial documents
- Technical exhibits and budget projections
- Meeting schedules and materials
- Frequently asked questions regarding rates and enterprise fund operations

In addition, the Town will periodically produce a **short informational newsletter summarizing key updates from the review process**. Printed copies of this newsletter will be available to the public at **Town Hall and the local libraries** so residents may easily access the information even if they do not regularly use the Town's website.

As the Authority works through this review, residents are encouraged to stay informed and attend meetings if they wish to follow the discussion. Any potential rate action would occur only after public review and a formally noticed public hearing.

The goal of this effort is to ensure that Watertown's water and sewer systems remain reliable, financially sustainable, and transparently managed for the benefit of the community.

Additional updates will be shared as information becomes available.

Sincerely,

**Watertown Water & Sewer Authority**