

# PUBLIC NOTICE

The Brunswick and Topsham Water District will be filing revised rate schedules with the Maine Public Utilities Commission to be effective 02/01/2021. The filing is made under provisions of Title 35-A MRSA Section 6104. The docket number for the filing is 2020-00314.

The new rates increase the cost of water consumption by approximately 1/20th of a cent per gallon from \$0.0051 to \$0.0058 (for consumption less than 7,500 gallons per quarter) or \$0.0063 to \$0.0066 (for consumption over 7,500 gallons per quarter).

Estimated monthly increases based upon average water usage by customer type are shown below.

<u>Customer Type</u>	<u>Average Monthly Gallons Used</u>	<u>Estimated Monthly Increase</u>
Single Occupancy	1,500	\$1.75
Double Occupancy	3,000	\$2.16
Small Business	3,750	\$2.92
Average Family	6,000	\$2.96
Medium Business	60,000	\$19.21
Large Business	300,000	\$84.21

Since the 2019 rate increase, operating expenses have increased and new debt has been incurred. Construction of the Topsham Filtration Facility, which will replace the Jackson Station, began in May. Completion is expected in Spring, 2022. In April, 2020 the District obtained a \$17.5 million one-year Bond Anticipation Note to finance construction. The District will borrow an additional \$17.5 million with a one-year BAN in Spring 2021 to finance the project through completion. Both BANs will be retired and permanent financing secured through issuance of 20-year general obligation bonds. In doing so, the District has sought to mitigate the impact of this new debt on our customers by distributing the rate increase over the project period. Interest costs in 2021 on these notes are estimated to be approximately \$525,000. The District projects a loss in 2021 without an increase in rates. To meet its debt obligations, continue to properly operate the water system, and make reasonable capital improvements and infrastructure replacements, the District is proposing an overall increase of \$358,392 as shown below.

Residential	\$185,729	8.05%
Public Fire Protection	\$60,649	7.37%
Commercial	\$58,329	5.19%
Private Fire Protection	\$32,290	7.04%
Public Authorities	\$20,302	4.78%
Industrial	\$1,093	5.21%
	<u>\$358,392</u>	<u>6.85%</u>

**Percentage increases are average by customer class. Individual billings will vary according to usage.**

The public fire protection increase is governed by Public Utilities Commission Chapter 69. In accordance with Chapter 69, the public fire protection revenue is set at 16% of total operating revenue.

A public hearing will be held on 12/14/20 at 5:30 PM at District Offices, 266 River Rd, Topsham, at which time details in support of the increase will be discussed.

You may inspect data relating to the present and proposed rates at the District's office before the hearing. You have the right to an open and fair hearing and the right to further hearings before the Commission. The Public Advocate is available for assistance to you in the matter upon request. The Public Utilities Commission may be contacted at 287-3831, State House Station 18, Augusta, ME 04333, or the Public Advocate at 624-3687, 112 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0112.

If, within 30 days of the public hearing, 1000 of the customers of the District file, with the treasurer of the District and the Commission, petitions demanding a review of the rate changes by the Commission, the rate change may be suspended, investigated, reviewed and changed in accordance with Section 310. Signatures on the petition are invalid unless accompanied by the printed names and address of the signers. Upon request the District will provide customers with the appropriate petition forms.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Frasier".

Alan J. Frasier  
General Manager