

Much has been said about the rate increase by this new Board of Commissioners since we volunteered just four months ago. With all our lives being as busy as they are, many of you missed these discussions and advertisements. To briefly bring you up-to-date, please read on.

About the rate increase: The previous Commissioners proposed the rate increase that is now in effect. It was needed to pay for the rise in debt service due to the new Awosting Sewer Treatment Plant, an increase in the operator contract, a new sludge truck and Bald Eagle Village improvements. The MUA noted it on the comment line of the bills that have been going out since January, 2012 (since they knew that it was coming in December.) They advertised the increase for two months in the Trends, Herald and Record. It was posted in the MUA office, on the MUA website on a red scroll line, and at Town Hall. It was sent to the Town Council as well. Individual notifications are not required by Statute and avoided because of the expense of time, postage and printing associated with it. The MUA went beyond the technical requirement.

I am working with a very talented, dedicated crew of new Commissioners, who are committed to enhancing the level of service as efficiently and cost effectively as possible. A meeting specific to the rate increase was advertised and held on March 21, 2012; the increase was discussed at length. To see what you missed, please, go to the minutes of this meeting. These minutes have been on the MUA website for a while, under "Workshop Minutes Rate Increase 3/21/12." Another informative section on the website is my newsletter, which I will be trying to update monthly. See the tab on the left entitled, "What's going on," Issue #1.

Five of the seven Commissioners are MUA users as well, and none of us are happy with the added cost, especially with the increase in Town taxes and today's economy.

Again, I invite you to read the minutes that are on line, as they tell quite a story and this is transparency. We have all asked for transparency, and all know the frustrations in dealing with the MUA in the past. On behalf of the new Board and the MUA staff, we would appreciate with heart-felt thanks if we could have the support of the community. The task ahead is daunting, to say the least.

Sincerely,

Carol Hardy, Chairperson