

WEST MILFORD MUNICIPAL UTILITY AUTHORITY

WHAT'S GOING ON! Issue No. 14 – Rate Comparison
February 5, 2016

The last time a report from the MUA was presented on rates was in early-2012 when this Board of Commissioners was appointed by the Town Council. The Board's first charge was to hold a formal rate increase meeting designed by others. This meeting was advertised and held on March 21, 2012. The minutes of the meeting are on the MUA website under "Workshop Minutes Rate Increase 3/21/12." There have been no rate increases since that time. Below is a compilation of current rate comparisons for your information. At the time this data was compiled from websites available for each of the companies cited, the MUA noted the following rates.

<u>Water (Quarterly)</u>	<u>10,000 gal</u>	<u>\$/Kgal</u>	<u>Service Charge</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
West Milford MUA	\$116.00	\$11.60	-0-	\$116.00
United Water	55.10	5.51	38.91	99.52
NJ American	62.00	6.20	61.20	123.20
Passaic Valley	19.60	1.96	98.69	118.29

<u>Sewer (Annual)</u>	<u>1 Bdrm</u>	<u>2 Bdrm</u>	<u>3 Bdrm/1 Fam</u>
West Milford MUA	\$1,215	\$1,235	\$1,255
Aqua America			1,105
United Water @ BE Commons	1,016	unknown	N/A
Passaic Valley Condo	270		325
NJ American			370

Cost analysis for maintaining a residential well and septic over a 25 year period.

(Reported by a resident who requested MUA services.)

Replace well pump and appurtenances	\$	5,000
Replace septic field – approx \$25 - \$30,000 average		27,500
Clean out septic tanks every 3 years @ \$375		3,127
Septic pump maintenance		1,000
Holding tank		500
Septic pump and well pump electricity are unknown.		
No power means no water/no sewer		
Cost of a hard wired generator		<u>7,000</u>
		\$44,127

Divided by 25 years

After living in the house 25 years 44,127+? = **\$1,765.08/year**

Considerations: Lack of use of the yard area over the septic field (which you pay taxes on.)
Chemical treatment – Required, but not reported by this resident

At this time, the Board of Commissioners feels a rate increase will not solve the challenges that will allow the MUA to be sustainable over the next twenty (20) years. The Board and staff are actively in pursuit of viable solutions for the immediate future as well as long term.

Of course, high water bills are not only a reflection of rates. Users must be aware that their water bill is a reflection of usage as well. Average usage for two adults generally results in a minimum charge for up to 10,000 gallons. For a family consisting of two adults and two children, the average usage is 15,000 gallons per quarter. When your bill appears high, look to your usage to see where you can conserve.

Carol Hardy, MUA Chairperson

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