

Water Rates Increase Sept.1st, 2024

George Wosiak

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To:WaterRateBoard <waterrateboard@Phila.gov>

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To the Honorable Members of the Philadelphia Water Rate Board.

First, I would like to thank the Board for allowing me to participate in the discussions concerning upcoming water rate increases and to express my opinion on the subject.

Because it would be difficult to introduce a competition, the Philadelphia Water Revenue Bureau has a monopoly in providing residents of Philadelphia with a water supply. Being a monopoly gives the Bureau an advantage in regulating the price of water and other services.

But still, I don't think the water rate increases are necessary. Instead, may I suggest several steps that could be taken by the Bureau to improve the efficiency of its operation and thus help balance its budget.

First, I would suggest improving the management of the human resources. On my part, I have to mention that we switched to electronically read water meters in all my apartment buildings in 1998. Also, billings and payments are made electronically now. That would drastically save time and money in the business operation of the Bureau.

Another step I would propose is to make sure that every regular customer of the Bureau pays his or her fair share of their water usage. I heard rumors that some people pay little or nothing for their water usage.

Finally, I would suggest that in the wake of all these increases- the water rates are going up steadily every year- low-income customers should pay more. It would be greatly unfair if the burden of rising costs of operation were laid only on a part of Philadelphia Water Revenue Bureau customers.

In light of all of these facts, I George Zbigniew Wosiak respectfully ask this Honorable Water Rate Board not to recommend any water rate increases this year.

Sincerely
George Z Wosiak