

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF SEA CLIFF

Mayor

Edward L. Lieberman, Esq.

Trustees

Kevin McGilloway
Dina Epstein, Esq.
Robin Maynard, Esq.
Deborah McDermott



Village Administrator

Bruce P. Kennedy

Village Clerk / Treasurer

Marianne Lennon

Village Justice

John P. Reali

Counsel

Brian S. Stolar, Esq.

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

FROM: Mayor Edward Lieberman

DATE: August 9, 2017

In recent weeks ratepayers of New York American Water Company's (NYAW) Sea Cliff Water District (comprised of those ratepayers in Sea Cliff, Glen Head, Glenwood Landing, and Old Brookville) have witnessed a massive increase in their water bills. At the same time, Sea Cliff residents have reported a perceptible deterioration of the service and quality of water.

This administration is committed to protecting the health and welfare of our residents and advocating for all people affected by these recent developments. In furtherance of this commitment, Village Administrator Bruce Kennedy and I have, through due diligence, gathered the varied facts through research, conversations and meetings with the representatives of the water company. We also have attended multiple meetings with civic leaders in Glen Head and Merrick involved in this mutual problem in order to formulate reasoned responses and a forward looking plan.

When the New York Public Service Commission, a state administrative body, whose commissioners are appointed by the Governor, with the State Senate's approval, considered the latest rate increase, this administration, on behalf of all the residents of Sea Cliff, filed timely written objections. We also provided our residents with information on filing their own comments to the PSC. These actions were also preceded by the previous administration's advisement to the public in 2015 that a state legislative solution would be the best way to mitigate against substantial impacts created by water rate increases. In this regard, the administration has continued to pursue these avenues.

At the August 7, 2017, the Board of Trustees once again discussed this matter and the additional information that has become available. It was concluded that not only was the decision of the Public Service Commission unfair and inequitable but also may be contrary to law. Therefore, by unanimous vote of the four Board members present, the Board decided to pursue avenues of litigation challenging rate charges and fees authorized by the Public Service Commission and billed by NYAW.

We encourage all residents and interested parties to attend a town hall meeting at 6:30 this evening at the North Shore Middle School where the matter of our water rates will be discussed. In attendance will be State, County and Town officials as well as representatives of New York American Water Company.