

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP
MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

• WASTEWATER TREATMENT • PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY •

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Sent via:
REGULAR MAIL

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Dear Customers,

As the new Executive Director for the Washington Township MUA, I am responsible for providing affordable quality drinking water while maintaining an aging infrastructure that services a relatively small customer base.

I have discovered in my review of our water system that the Authority has expended a large amount of time and financial resources to develop a much needed new well on the Mountain to increase the water supply. Well maintenance for existing wells has been ongoing and effective. A small portion of the water lines in the Valley have been replaced, but there is still much to do.

The configuration of the water system on the Mountain prohibits a water storage tank from being taken out of service for even a short period time for rehabilitation. To strengthen the system, another is needed. Additionally all five of the Authority's water tanks are in need of rehabilitation and repair.

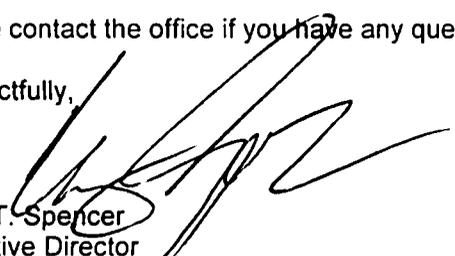
As many of you are already aware, the implementation of the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act of 2004 has all but stopped new connections to the Authority water system. These connection fees have historically been the Authority's financial source for capital improvements such as outlined above. Furthermore the Authority's small customer base, spread over 37 miles of water distribution lines, presents a significant financial challenge.

In response to these challenges, the Board Commissioners opted to implement a flat quarterly Water Infrastructure Improvement Fee (WIIF) of \$25 per water connection, effective January 2019, to share in the Authority's rehabilitation costs. This fee was established to avoid significant water rate increases. The goal is to address the most critical issue, tank rehabilitation, which cannot wait until the Authority's debt commitments are concluded at the end of 2027. The Authority will annually review its capital needs and available funding to determine the need for the WIIF.

It is never easy hearing that costs are rising. It is also not easy being the one to tell you that costs are rising. The Authority's goal will not waiver to provide each customer with safe drinking water.

Please contact the office if you have any questions, 908-876-3145.

Respectfully,


Craig T. Spencer
Executive Director