

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE WATER AUTHORITY OF GREAT NECK NORTH  
FOR A PUBLIC HEARING WITH REGARD TO**

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RATES AND CHARGES FOR  
THE USE OF THE FACILITIES OF, THE SERVICES RENDERED BY, AND  
THE COMMODITIES FURNISHED BY THE WATER AUTHORITY**

**HELD ON July 17, 2023,  
KINGS POINT VILLAGE HALL, KINGS POINT, NEW YORK.**

**PRESENT:**

Michael C. Kalnick, Chairperson  
Carol Frank, Director  
Jay Johnas, Director  
Dan Levy, Director  
Dana Lustbader, Director  
Irving Rosenstein, Director  
Michael Smiley, Director  
Steven Weinberg, Director

Town of North Hempstead  
Village of Kings Point  
Village of Great Neck  
Village of Saddle Rock  
Village of Kensington  
Village of Great Neck Plaza  
Village of Great Neck Estates  
Village of Thomaston

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Ralph J. Kreitzman, Vice-Chairperson  
Robert Graziano, Deputy Chairperson  
Gregory Graziano, Superintendent  
Michael Rispoli, Assistant Superintendent  
Adam Solow, Superintendent of Plant Operations  
Judith Flynn, Treasurer  
Debra Ray, Secretary  
Michelle S. Prior, Counsel  
Gary Cucchi, Vice President

Water Authority of Great Neck North  
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McLaughlin & Stern, LLP  
Progressive Marketing Group, Inc.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6 p.m. Eight members, who together are authorized to cast a majority of the weighted vote (Chairperson/Director Kalnick, Directors Frank, Johnas, Levy, Lustbader, Rosenstein, Smiley, and Weinberg) were present, constituting a quorum.

Chairperson Kalnick opened the hearing and confirmed that due notice of the hearing was provided in accordance with and in addition to that required by the Authority's enabling legislation by publishing a legal notice in the Great Neck News, in the Great Neck Record, and on the Authority's website.

Chairperson Kalnick then continued with the following statement:

Good evening everyone. For those that don't know me, my name is Michael Kalnick and I have the honor of serving the public as Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Water Authority of Great Neck North and as the Director representing the Town of North Hempstead. I am joined this evening by all of my colleagues on the Board and we wish to thank you for attending this public hearing.

We are here this evening to share with our consumers the advancements we've made to safeguard and protect Great Neck North's water supply not just for today, but for future generations as well. Let me begin by stating that the Water Authority of Great Neck North has always been at the forefront of protecting our local water supply, and this responsibility, which we take very seriously, requires thoughtful planning, vigilance, and foresight. During the past few years we've embarked on a capital campaign which includes the design, construction and operation of the nation's most advanced, state-of-the-art treatment systems and facilities to combat emerging contaminants. Our treatment program, which is a multi-prong approach, ensures the Authority continues to meet New York State standards and regulations for emerging contaminants mandated by the State on August 26, 2020, and later modified for even stricter enforcement these past few years.

We are fortunate to work with some of the brightest professionals in the water industry...many of which work right here for the Authority. We work closely with our professional engineers and strategic partners to develop the most efficient and proactive plan for the detection and treatment of these emerging contaminants, known as PFOS, PFAS and 1,4-dioxane. By taking the necessary and proper steps, we continue to answer the call of New York State's Department of Health...and are now better prepared for our future.

It's important for the public to understand that the regulations and standards that we meet each day were mandated by the New York State Department of Health...AND...they are continually changing. New York State has become the first in the nation to adopt rigorous new drinking water standards that require public water suppliers, such as ourselves, to design and construct the treatment systems that will ensure the water that comes out of your tap is safe, clean, great tasting water...and delivered without interruption.

To this end, there is a price to pay to protect our water, and while no price is too great, there is a cost attached to achieving our goals. Operating costs and expenses are increasing constantly, and raising capital is becoming increasingly challenging for public water suppliers across Long Island and New York State. What we are experiencing here at the Water Authority is not an anomaly. The challenges we face here are the same challenges that other dedicated water suppliers face each day.

To help offset these costs, the Authority has secured state and federal grants and loans. And, we issued a \$19.8 million low-interest Water System Revenue Bond which is put towards our capital improvement projects. Monies have been drawn to pay for the design, construction and operations of our new treatment plants, as well additional infrastructure projects that are part of the Authority's long-term capital improvements plan.

To make up the difference, we need to institute a new rate structure as additional revenue will

be needed to further develop infrastructure that may be required to remove emerging contaminants and modernize the Authority's water distribution system. As the Authority continues to comply with these new State regulations, commercial, governmental, municipal and residential customers will see a slight increase in their water bills. These new rates will go into effect as of January 1, 2024. These are all necessary actions to fund the planning, infrastructure, technology, operations and maintenance of the Authority's treatment facilities and infrastructure improvements.

Residential customers will see a modest increase of 4% per year for 4 years on their water bill and a one-time increase of \$6.63 per quarter to the Treatment Fee. On a minimum bill this equates to an increase of 11 cents per day. For more details, you can refer to the Rate Schedules provided in the handout you received when you arrived.

It is our pledge to provide our customers with an uninterrupted supply of top quality drinking water, and again, as I stated at the beginning of my remarks—we take this responsibility very seriously.

It is our pledge to address any need for water treatment and invest whatever is necessary to ensure we continue to meet or exceed all local, state and federal standards.

It is our pledge to collaborate with elected officials to secure additional funding and we will seek additional grants as they become available.

It is our pledge to continually educate our consumers on topics such as water conservation, raising awareness about the importance of conserving water and instilling a sense of responsibility to help sustain and protect our water supply and adopt responsible water usage practices.

We are on the right path and today's session allows for an open forum. If anyone has any questions about treatment facilities and what we're accomplishing throughout the Authority with our new technology and upgraded infrastructure, please ask that of our proud Superintendent Gregory Graziano who manages and oversees the Authority's daily operations.

We have also created a detailed Frequently Asked Questions document that was composed to be a resource for you and your families. It is available on our website.


In closing, we take pride in communicating with our consumers and we are always updating our website with critical information for you. And remember, be mindful of water conservation this summer. We are already experiencing scorching hot days. Irrigation accounts for a very high percentage of residential water use. Please observe and follow the irrigation ordinances which are also available on our website.

Thank you for your attention. The hearing is now open to public comment.

With no one in attendance from the public, the Chairperson closed the public hearing.

On the motion of Director Levy, seconded by Director Rosenstein, by Resolution #23-07-11, the Board agreed to the Rate and Fee Schedule attached to and made a part of these minutes. The vote was 8 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Approved by Secretary: 

Date: 8/21/2023