



Cotuit Water Commission
Cost of Services and Water Rate Study and Implementation - Timeline

Background:

After reviewing the true cost of Cotuit's water service, the Cotuit Water Commissioners are proposing to increase the water rates in 2019 for fiscal year 2020, which begins July 1, 2019. There is additional information on our website at www.cotuitfiredistrict.org/waterdepartment/news-announcements

2005 Last time the water rates were adjusted, breaking the minimum use charge in half and adding a tier for more than 120,000 gallons of annual use

2017

May Water Department budget approved by District voters, including \$25,000 for a water rate study

August Focus group, scope of work discussion for Cost of Services study at Cotuit Water Commission (CWC) meetings

October Draft request for proposals (RFP) issued for comments from the Prudential Committee (PruComm)

November PruComm and Mr. Daley provide revised RFP

December CWC and PruComm confer on RFP

2018

January RFP issued to six vendors for response

February Proposals submitted from five vendors were evaluated; Tata & Howard selected

March PruComm approves vendor selection

April Consultant meets with CWC to review tasks

June –
August Data collection and analysis

September Consultant provides review of cost of water service, with 5-year projections; asked to provide comparable analysis of water rates in other local water suppliers

December Workshop scheduled for January 16, 2019

2019

January Special workshop to discuss water rate increases to create self-sufficiency for the Water Department costs; CWC discusses public education materials

February CWC adopts recommended proposal to increase base fee and water rates, plus a meter charge to create a proposed stabilization fund for the department

March Water bills sent out with notice of proposed rate increases; education materials drafted

April 16 Public forum on water rate increase at Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association; filmed

May 20, 21 District Election and Annual Meeting – presentation by CWC on water rate proposal; stabilization fund voted

June CWC approves rate increases; last actual use bills sent out using old rate

July Start of fiscal year (FY2020) with new rates

September Phase I - first FY20 bills distributed to ratepayers with new base rate and \$10 meter charge

December Phase I - first actual usage bills distributed with initial new rates (first step increase)

2020

March meter Phase I - second FY20 bills distributed to ratepayers with new base rate and \$10 charge

June Phase I - final FY20 actual usage bills distributed with final new rates

September Phase II - FY21 bills distributed to ratepayers with new base rate and \$10 meter charge

December Phase II - first actual usage bills distributed with final new rates (second and final step increase)

2021

March Phase II - second FY21 bills distributed to ratepayers with new base rate and \$10 meter charge

June

Phase II - final FY21 actual usage bills distributed with final new rates

2024

next scheduled review of rates