



**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 voted to increase the water rates in 2019 for fiscal year 2020, which began July 1, 2019. There is additional information on our website at www.cotuitfiredistrict.org/waterdepartment/waterrates

<u>2005</u>	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
<u>2017</u>	
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
<u>2018</u>	
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. Video added to the CWC webpage.

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

October First FY20 bills distributed to ratepayers with new base rate and \$10 meter charge

2020

January First actual usage bills distributed with initial new rates (July-Dec. usage period).

March Second FY20 bills distributed to ratepayers with new base rate and \$10 meter charge

July FY21 actual usage bills distributed with new rates (January-June usage period).

October FY21 bills distributed to ratepayers with new base rate and \$10 meter charge

2021

January Actual usage bills distributed with new rates (July-Dec. usage period).

March	FY21 bills distributed to ratepayers with new base rate and \$10 meter charge
July	Actual usage bills distributed with new rates (January-June usage period).
<u>2024</u>	Next scheduled review of rates