



## Press Release

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Media Contact:                      Michael Branthoover, 724-863-2860

The North Huntingdon Township Municipal Authority (NHTMA) took action at its regular meeting on May 11, 2016 to adopt a \$9.6 million dollar annual budget, as well as update its \$11.1 million dollar five-year capital improvement plan designed to continue repairing its infrastructure. The Authority's 2017 fiscal year began on May 1, 2016.

NHTMA's Board of Directors were happy to report there will be no rate increases projected for its Capital Improvements Plan, however a \$2.50 per month increase is needed for Fiscal Year 2017's Operating Budget. This increase is a direct result of a \$5.00 per month rate increase imposed by the Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority (WWMA) in 2016.

The Operating Budget covers day to day expenditures such as personnel costs, vehicle repairs, fuel costs, insurance, routine maintenance of equipment, buildings and grounds. In addition, operating expenditures include \$2.4 million dollars in purchased sewage treatment for NHTMA's customers that flow to WWMA, an increase of \$300,000 over last year. WWMA's treatment facility is located on Route 993 in North Huntingdon Township. NHTMA does not own this facility and are one of 6 local municipalities that utilize this regional treatment facility.

The Capital Improvement Plan projects the Authority's capital expenses through Fiscal Year 2021. Projects anticipated in Fiscal Year 2017 total \$2.2 million and include continued replacement of lines in the Penn's Woods area, vehicle replacement, SCADA enhancements, and manhole and pump station rehabilitation. Construction will continue in the Penn's Woods area through October 2016. These capital projects will be financed through the Capital Reserve Fund without incurring any additional debt.

The Authority has taken action to increase tap fees to \$3,950 per EDU effective July 1, 2016. The tap fee is calculated based on a formula prescribed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and permits an Authority to recover allowable costs that have been spent on capital expenditures. The Authority's consulting engineer reviews the tap fee annually as part of the budget process to ensure that new customers who tap into the system are paying their fair share of prior system costs.

NHTMA provides sanitary sewer service to approximately 12,000 residential and commercial customers. With 24 full-time employees, the Authority operates and maintains over 255 miles of sewer lines, 6,000 manholes, 13 pumping stations, and one 3.31 mgd treatment facility.