



Press Release

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The North Huntingdon Township Municipal Authority (NHTMA) took action at its regular meeting on May 13, 2015 to adopt a \$9.1 million dollar annual budget, as well as update its \$11.9 million dollar five-year capital improvement plan designed to continue repairing its aging infrastructure. The Authority's 2016 fiscal year began on May 1, 2015.

NHTMA's Board of Directors are happy to report there will be no rate increases projected or included in the Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget or Capital Improvements Plan.

The Operating Budget covers day to day expenditures such as personnel costs, vehicle repairs, fuel costs, routine maintenance of equipment, buildings and grounds. In addition operating expenditures include \$2.1 million dollars in purchased sewage treatment for NHTMA's customers that flow to the Western Westmoreland Municipal Authority (WWMA). WWMA's plant 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 2020. Projects anticipated in Fiscal Year 2016 total \$2.4 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 2015. These capital projects will be financed through the Capital Reserve Fund without incurring any additional debt.

Action was also taken at the May 13, 2015 regular meeting to increase tap fees to \$3,775 per EDU. The tapping 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 tapping fee annually as part of the budget process to ensure that new customers tapping 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 plant.