



Press Release

Date: April 9, 2013

To: Local newspapers and media outlets; Village website

Re: **Willowbrook Increases its Local Water Rate by 25%**

Although the Village Board has tried to reduce the impact of DuPage Water Commission water rate increases to its residents, the Village Water Fund cannot continue to subsidize the cost of water, as a 5-year Fund projection has shown

During the Village Board's deliberations on the Fiscal Year 2013/14 Budget, staff presented a 5-year projection depicting the fiscal health of the Village's Water Fund. The projection showed that the Fund will continue to draw down its operating reserve, which is currently well below the target level set at 90 days of operation. After directing staff to consider several rate increase scenarios, the Board continued its budget discussion relating to the Water Fund at the April 8th regular meeting of the Village Board.

Village Administrator Tim Halik reported at the meeting, *“Since 2010 the DuPage Water Commission has raised the rate it charges us for water four times for a total increase of 77%. During that same period of time, the Village has raised our local water rate twice for a total increase of 40%, and has provided for a 6% discount to minimum water users. The Commission plans to further raise rates in 2014 and 2015 for an additional total increase of 35%.”* Halik stated, *“Although the Village Board has tried in earnest to reduce the impact of these increases to our residents, the Village Water Fund cannot continue to subsidize the cost we pay for water, as the 5-year projection has shown.”*

To help determine a rate increase amount, staff ran several rate increase scenarios which incorporate; 1) The rate increases that have been charged, and will be charged in the future, by the DuPage Water Commission, and 2) The cost estimates of several large water infrastructure maintenance projects which must be completed in the short-term. After review and discussion, a rate increase of 25% was ultimately determined to build enough capital to fund the Village's known water infrastructure projects while maintaining an adequate operating reserve in the Water Fund in case of unexpected expenses. Although higher rate increase scenarios were considered, the Village Board decided to utilize the lowest increase amount that would ensure the health of the Fund.

The rate increase will be effective as of May 1, 2013. A 6% discount program for minimum residential water users (i.e., those residential accounts that use less than the minimum quarterly usage amount of 9,000 gallons) which the Village Board approved in 2012 will remain in place, resulting in a rate increase of 19% for those accounts effective May 1, 2013.

Questions regarding the new water rates should be directed to Public Works Secretary, Pam Phillips, at (630) 920-2238.

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Local Contact:

**Village Administrator Tim Halik
630-920-2261 office**