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Fall 2009

HICKSVILLE WATER DISTRICT

WATER GRAM

ATTENTION VOTERS!



The Hicksville Water and Fire District encourage all local residents to exercise their civic duty and vote on **Tuesday, December 8th, 2009**. Voting is one of the most precious rights we have as American citizens. Elected leaders make the decisions that help determine the quality of our everyday lives and ultimately, the quality of our future.

The Hicksville special districts election for water and fire commissioners will take place, for the first time, in a joint venture on **Tuesday, December 8th, 2009, from 3 - 9 p.m.**, at the Hicksville Fire Department headquarters, located on 20 East Marie Street, and at the Hicksville Fire Department Station No. 4 located on Levittown Parkway. All registered voters of Hicksville Water District are eligible to vote.

If you are unable to make it to the polls, please apply for an absentee ballot at the District Office and fill out the official District form. The form must be received at least seven days prior to the election if it is to be mailed to the voter. For more information contact the HWD at 516.931.0184. Remember every vote counts!

NO INCREASE in Taxes or Rates in 2010 for 5th Straight Year

The Hicksville Water District Board of Commissioners held a public forum in the Town of Oyster Bay Community Center this past September to present the District's proposed annual budget for the 2010 fiscal year.

During this budget hearing, Commissioner Karl Schweitzer, Chairman, proudly announced that for the fifth straight year the Hicksville Water District will be holding the line on taxes and once again there will be no increase in water rates!

In preparing the budget the Board carefully reviewed the prior year's budget, operating expenses incurred, as well as all anticipated projects for 2010. Other factors considered and outlined include the cost to operate wells and managing LIPA's staggered rates during LIPA's peak season (May - September). Despite mild summer weather, the excessive rain in June impacted the budget considerations. Commissioner Schweitzer remarked, "Often times we are unfairly criticized for having too much money set in reserve accounts, but the past summer is indicative of why we reserve more than the average 10-15% of

our budget. Water sales make up 40% of our budget and when our usage is down, our revenue is down as well. We must be prudent and provide sound fiscal management, which is exactly what we have been doing for decades."

The Board of Commissioners felt the budget hearing was a successful event, as they had the opportunity to share good news with the public and the public had the opportunity to ask questions about HWD projects and receive immediate feedback.



From the Desk of Superintendent Bill Schuckmann



Superintendent
William E. Schuckmann

I would like to take this opportunity to update you, our valued customers, on the District's Upcoming Capital Projects. The Hicksville Water District has prepared a Master Plan outlining its long-term capital needs. The key focus of our program is to maintain excellence in water quality through treatment. These projects are developed at no charge to our customers and with no tax or water rate increases.

The District is planning two important capital projects with preliminary design to begin in early Spring 2010: Plant 5 on Stewart Ave. and Plant 6 on Kuhl Ave. Plant 5 will receive an overall upgrade and a treatment system for organics. Plant 6 will be updated with a water treatment system for organics and a treatment system for nitrates.

In this upcoming year, we will add a treatment building for year-round operation, an emergency generator and various site improvements to Plant 11 on Old Country

Road. Also slated to begin later this year, the plan calls for the addition of a treatment facility for nitrates at Plant 1 on Bethpage Road. In 2012, the District will reactivate plant 3 on Jerusalem Ave. and add a treatment system for organics and a treatment system for nitrates. Plant 3 will provide an additional well to the District and improve pressure in the southeast section of Hicksville.

The overall program will be financed through a bond. As many customers are aware, the District utilizes bonds to fund necessary upgrades, restorations and construction of new plants and wells in the community. The District's overall planning provides for incorporating the financing with their existing capital program, and as previously mentioned, will not result in additional costs to the residents of the District.

The District is looking forward to the completion of the near-term projects, such as Plant 8 (see Plant 8 article) as well as breaking ground on future plans.

For more information on our capital bonding projects, please call the District office.

Plant 8 is Ahead of Schedule!

HWD has a long history of providing high quality drinking water and continues to do so on a daily basis. We monitor and routinely inspect our water to ensure that we maintain a relatively low level of nitrates in the water. Excessive levels of nitrates in drinking water can lead to oxygen deficiency in your blood. The New York State drinking water standard for nitrates is 10 mg/L, and drinking water with concentrations above this quantity poses a primary health concern.

The HWD provides drinking water to its customers that is well below the State mandated threshold. Furthermore, if one of our wells approaches the limit of 10 mg/L, we proactively remove the well from service and will not operate the well until it can reliably provide high quality water. This precautionary procedure currently has led us to take four wells off-line.

Most recently, one of our wells at our main pumping facility on Dean Street (Plant 8) began to approach our limit for nitrate concentration and we promptly removed the well from service. However, Plant 8 includes a water storage tank and booster pumping facility, therefore it's critical to the District for it to operate at maximum capacity. Commissioner



Nicholas Brigandi says, "The HWD has taken the initiative to study available treatment technologies for the removal of nitrates from drinking water, which resulted in our decision to implement an 'ion exchange' treatment process (like a water softener) at Plant 8."

In March of this year, construction began on the new \$2.9 million treatment facility for the removal of nitrates. The facility is expected to be on-line by the spring of 2010 but will be ready much sooner than anticipated. Our treatment system will be located within a treatment building in order to protect the system from vandalism and weather. This treatment system will be the first of its kind installed in Nassau County, and we at the District are committed to continuing to evaluate new treatment technologies so that we can provide drinking water of the highest quality to the community at the lowest possible cost.



Keep Fire Hydrants Clear and Visible During the Winter

Hicksville Water District officials request residents and business owners keep fire hydrants clear of snow and any other obstructions this upcoming winter.

Meteorologists are predicting a harsh winter, and snowy conditions can quickly cover fire hydrants making it difficult for firefighters to find them in an emergency situation. The time lost while searching for a nearby hydrant can cost lives as well as property loss, so keeping them easy to see is an important public safety issue.

HWD stresses the importance of awareness of neighborhood hydrants during snowy weather and the necessity to remove snow around them so they can be seen from all directions. Commissioner Warren Uss urges residents, "to adopt-a-hydrant and when clearing snow from their sidewalks to also take the extra minutes and clear a hydrant."



Also the HWD supports an aggressive maintenance program at every level of operation. The District would like to remind customers that we have an ongoing maintenance program for our fire hydrants. Hydrants require regular painting to remain visible to firefighters and traffic. Additionally, the HWD routinely inspects and tests all hydrants for performance and leaks, as well as flushes them to keep maximum pressure. Our technicians are trained to respond to any damage, leaks or accidents. The District believes that this attention to detail and accent on public safety is a major advantage of local management and control of our Water District.

Commissioner Uss commented, "As District residents, we are highly aware of fiscal, safety and operational issues in the community and recognize the importance of swift response and action in regards to water supply. Our maintenance program stays within our 2010 budget, and we thank all our customers in advance for their cooperation in keeping fire hydrants visible this winter."