

# **2018 Proposed Special Districts Budget**

**Presentation to the  
Westchester County Board of Legislators  
November 29, 2017**

## Environmental Policy

It is the mission of the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities to protect, preserve and conserve the water supply and quality of watercourses within or on the borders of Westchester County; to provide proper solid waste stream reduction and recycling; and to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. The Department is responsible for planning, operating and maintaining: water resource recovery facilities, sanitary collection systems, drinking water treatment and distribution facilities, and solid waste facilities in compliance with local, state and federal laws.

To achieve this mission and thereby contribute to a more sustainable society, DEF is committed to:

- meet, and where practical, exceed its environmental legal and regulatory requirements, and other commitments;
- prevent pollution, protect the environment; and,
- continually improve.

# **2018 Budget Presentation**

## **Department of Environmental Facilities**

**The Department of Environmental Facilities is comprised of 3 major divisions:**

- **Sewer Districts**
- **Refuse Disposal District #1**
- **Water Districts**

## The Department is also comprised of 18 individual Taxing Districts

### 13 Sanitary Sewer Districts

- Blind Brook Sewer District
- Bronx Valley Sewer District
- Central Yonkers Sewer District
- Mamaroneck Valley Sewer District
- New Rochelle Sewer District
- North Yonkers Sewer District
- Saw Mill Valley Sewer District
- South Yonkers Sewer District
- Upper Bronx Sewer District
- Ossining Sewer District
- Peekskill Sewer District
- Port Chester Sewer District
- North Yonkers Sewer District

### Refuse Disposal District #1

### 4 Water Districts

- Water District #1
- Water District #2
- Water District #3
- Water District #4

## The 2018 Proposed Environmental Facilities Budget supports the following:

- 7 Wastewater Recovery Facilities; 42 Pumping Stations
- 194 miles of Trunk Sewers and Force mains
- 4 Solid Waste Transfer Stations; Material Recovery Facility; Household Materials Recovery Facility
- Closed Landfills (2), closed Ashfill
- Treat 50 billion gallons of wastewater per year
- Supply 10 billion gallons of drinking water per year
- Dispose/Recycle 378,300 Tons per year Municipal and Privately collected Solid Waste at a Waste-to-Energy Facility to produce electricity
- Recycle approximately 250,000 tons of Recycled Waste – Organics, Paper, Plastics, metals and miscellaneous recyclable materials – from the County’s waste stream

## Sewer District Division

The Sewer District Division is made up of the 13 individual Sanitary Sewer Taxing Districts and the Consolidated Sewer District Fund. There are two major categories of expenses. The first is for Capital Expenses, including debt service and debt related expenses, which are allocated directly to the Taxing District in which the expenses are incurred. The second is for operations and maintenance expenses which are now consolidated into one fund and allocated out to the 13 Sewer Districts based on the fully equalized value (FEV) of each District. As the total FEV of the individual Districts changes as compared to the total FEV County wide, the percentage of the consolidated District Expenses allocated to that District changes as well.

In the 2018 Proposed Budget there is a 1.17% decrease in total expenditures appropriated in all Sanitary Sewer Districts combined. The largest variances are an increase in Health Benefits costs of \$600K, which is more than offset by decreases budgeted for contractual services of \$1.083M, utilities of \$372K, Chemicals of \$550K and non-recurring expenses of \$300K. The total expense budget appropriation is \$1,446,113 lower than the 2017 Adopted Budget.

## **Refuse Disposal District #1**

The County Refuse Disposal District consists of 4 Transfer Stations, a Waste-to-Energy plant (RESCO) for Municipal Solid Waste, a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for the handling of recyclables, a Household-Material Recovery Facility (H-MRF) for the handling of hard-to-get-rid-of household wastes, a closed ash fill, two closed landfills, a fleet of tractors, transfer trailers, recyclable containers and various equipment for waste and recyclables processing and transport. There is a \$175K decrease in the Tax Levy for 2018 in the Refuse Disposal District. The Department would like to proudly note that **the District's Proposed 2018 tax levy is 12.4% lower than the 2004 tax levy.**

This division continues to look at new and innovative programs in an effort to reduce, recycle and reuse waste and improve the quality of life in Westchester County. The County's Refuse Disposal District continues to incorporate Waste-to-Energy technology for the disposal of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). By disposing of MSW at the Resco facility in Peekskill, county waste is used to produce energy that in turn is used to provide electricity to thousands of households and businesses in the County. Westchester continues to be a regional leader in recycling performance, exceeding Federal and State recycling goals, through a combination of education, collection programs and enforcement. The Refuse District will also continue its organic waste and electronic waste management programs.

## **Refuse Disposal District #1**

### **Household Material Recovery Facility**

The County's Household Material Recovery Facility (H-MRF) provides a permanent location to dispose of various household wastes, including chemicals, e-waste, tires, mercury-containing devices and unwanted or expired medications. The facility also offers document shredding services. Through October of 2017 7,196 households have visited the H-MRF and disposed of 447,145 lbs. of household waste.

The H-MRF also accepts hazardous chemicals and fluorescent bulbs from any school, institution or business that qualifies as a Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG).

## **Water District Division**

Water District #1 includes the Cities of Yonkers, Mount Vernon, and White Plains, the Village of Scarsdale and a small portion of New Castle. Water District #2 mostly serves the Town of Yorktown, but also includes Somers and Cortlandt. The facilities in Water District #2 are leased to the Northern Westchester Joint Water Works. Water District # 3 serves the Valhalla Campus at Grasslands. Water District #4 was created to serve the Town/City of Rye, the Village of Port Chester and the Village of Rye Brook which are currently serviced by SUEZ.

The Budget for Water District #1 includes both an ad valorem tax and a water usage charge. The water usage charge funds approximately 83% of the total Budget and is simply a pass through expense. This amount (\$17M for 2018) is a factor of the rate which is set by the NYC Water Board and the water consumption of the Municipalities in the District. The 2017 rate increase was delayed by the NYC Water Board. We have received no guidance from the Water Board as far as future rate increases are concerned but are assuming an increase of 5% taking effect in both 2017 and 2018.

The remainder of the Water District #1 Budget is funded through an ad valorem tax. This includes all operating and maintenance expenses as well as any debt services expenses related to capital projects in the District. In the 2018 Proposed Water District #1 Budget, the annual Tax Levy is increasing 3.1% compared to 2017. An additional position was added in 2017 due to the two new UV facilities that are now operational.

## **Water District Division**

Also included in the 2018 Proposed Water District #1 Budget are the Supplemental Environment Projects (SEPs) approved in 2015 as part of the settlement with the US Department of Justice.

Water District No. 3 completed the upgrade of the Gate of Heaven Pumping Station. This facility provides drinking water to the County Grasslands Campus and was upgraded to provide access to drinking water from various City of New York sources and provide ultra-violet light (UV) treatment that is required by the USEPA and the NYSDOH. This facility will eventually be used as a backup source of water once the district completes construction of a new water delivery and chemical addition system. An additional position was added in 2017 in part due to the anticipation of the future County WD#3 pumping station to be constructed adjacent to the Eastview Distribution Chamber.