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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bedford Regional Water Authority Board Approves New Rate Beginning June 1st

At the May 16th board meeting of the Bedford Regional Water Authority (Authority), the board of directors approved the rates for fiscal year 2023-2024. These rates will go into effect on June 1, 2023, and will be utilized for all billing statements after June 30, 2023.

A public hearing was held during the meeting to allow the public to comment or ask questions about the rates. The rates were previously advertised in March and April along with them being posted on the Authority's website. One customer attended the meeting and spoke against the rate changes. After the public hearing closed the board approved the rates in a unanimous vote.

The average customer using 4,000 gallons of water per month will see a rate increase of approximately \$4 - \$6 per month for water and \$3.50 - \$3.80 per month for sewer. The modified rates also include an unauthorized connection tiered fee structure, some changes in the fees related to Small Grinder Pumps, changes to water capital recovery fees for ¾" meters and up, and water and sewer tap fee changes. To view all the rate changes please visit <https://www.brwa.com/rate-adjustment/>.

"The conversations that the board, Finance Committee, and staff have had surrounding the budget and rate change have been very analytical, thoughtful, and challenging. Balancing the needs of the community with the Authority's ability to continue to provide service with as few interruptions as possible, is always a fine balance to achieve. We believe that instating rate changes this year will allow us to continue to improve our service with as little impact as possible to our customers," said Jill Underwood, Director of Finance for the Authority.

This is the final year in a ten-year equalization process that has now successfully combined the former Bedford County Public Service Authority and the former City of Bedford Water and Sewer department rates into one rate, with the exception of special service areas. The rates are based on a rate study conducted by Draper Aden Associates in preparation for consolidation and the creation of the Bedford Regional Water Authority in 2013.

The Authority offers financial support to those in need through partnering organizations. For more information visit, <https://www.brwa.com/your-bill/help/help-with-bills/> or call Customer Service at 540-586-7679. These organizations include the Agape Center, Bedford Christian Ministries, Interfaith Outreach Action Group, Lake Christian Ministries, Lynchburg Community Action Group, and the Salvation Army.

The Authority's goal with rate equalization is to continue providing quality service to its customer base. This includes system upgrades to minimize the number of line breaks and service disruptions due to aging water and sewer lines.

About the Bedford Regional Water Authority:

The Bedford Regional Water Authority (BRWA) provides water and wastewater services to the residents and businesses in Bedford County and the Town of Bedford; additionally, the BRWA partners with the Western Virginia Water Authority to serve customers surrounding Smith Mountain Lake in both Bedford and Franklin County. Visit www.brwa.com for further information.

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