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# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Bedford Regional Water Authority Board Approves New Rate Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>**

At the May 21<sup>st</sup> board meeting of the Bedford Regional Water Authority (BRWA), the board of directors approved the rates for fiscal year 2024-2025. These rates went into effect on June 1, 2024, and will be utilized for all billing statements after June 30, 2024.

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 April and May 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 4-2 vote.

The rate change included a \$2 increase for the residential water base rate and a \$2 increase for the residential sewer base rate. For residential customers who have water service only or sewer service only, their bill will increase by \$2 a month. For those who have both water and sewer service, their bill will increase by \$4 each month. For larger meter sizes, typically commercial and industrial users, they will have a base rate increase determined by the size of their meter. These increases along with more information about rates, can be found at <https://www.brwa.com/your-bill/pricing/>.

"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 Rhonda English, Deputy Director for the BRWA.

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 in establishing rate structures 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](http://www.brwa.com) for further information.

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