



WATER & SEWER INFORMATION SESSION AND PUBLIC HEARING

MAYOR KATJANA BALLANTYNE

MAY 15, 2023

Demetrios G. Vidalis P.E., SHEP

Director of Water & Sewer
Water & Sewer Department

Stephen C. Haynes II

Director of Finance & Admin.
Water & Sewer Department



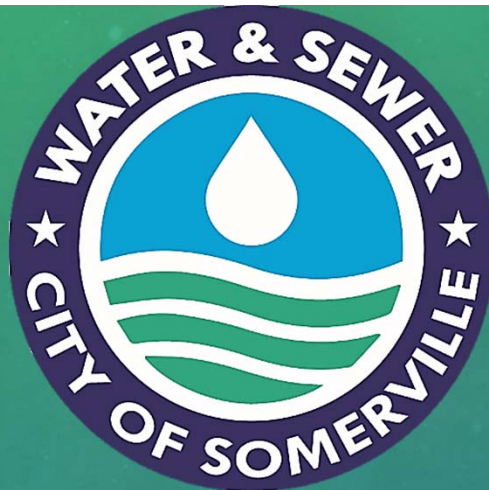
AGENDA

6 to 6:30 PM

- Presentation of Rate Proposal

6:30 to 8 PM

- Public Hearing
 - Accepting public testimony for the record (Please provide your name and address when you testify)



WATER & SEWER SERVICES

Public Health

- Clean water to your home or business
- Sanitary sewer and stormwater service for a city of nearly 85,000 residents

Fire Suppression

- Sufficient water pressure and volume for fire suppression and firefighting.



OUR CITY'S
WATER & SEWER
SYSTEMS
INCLUDE:

116 miles of water mains

183 miles of sewer mains

**29,000+ water & sewer
connections**

4,800+ manholes

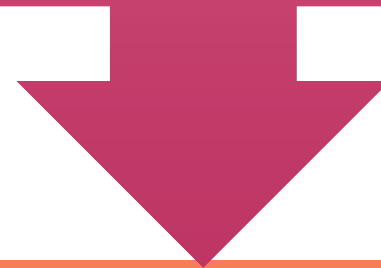
1,600+ fire hydrants

3,600+ catch basins



WATER & SEWER IS A NOT-FOR-PROFIT SERVICE

Rate Adjustments are dictated by upgrading/replacing and maintaining the city's aging infrastructure (Capital Investment Plan [CIP]), and the support of ongoing efforts to provide adequate public health and fire suppression services.



Without sufficient revenue, we cannot

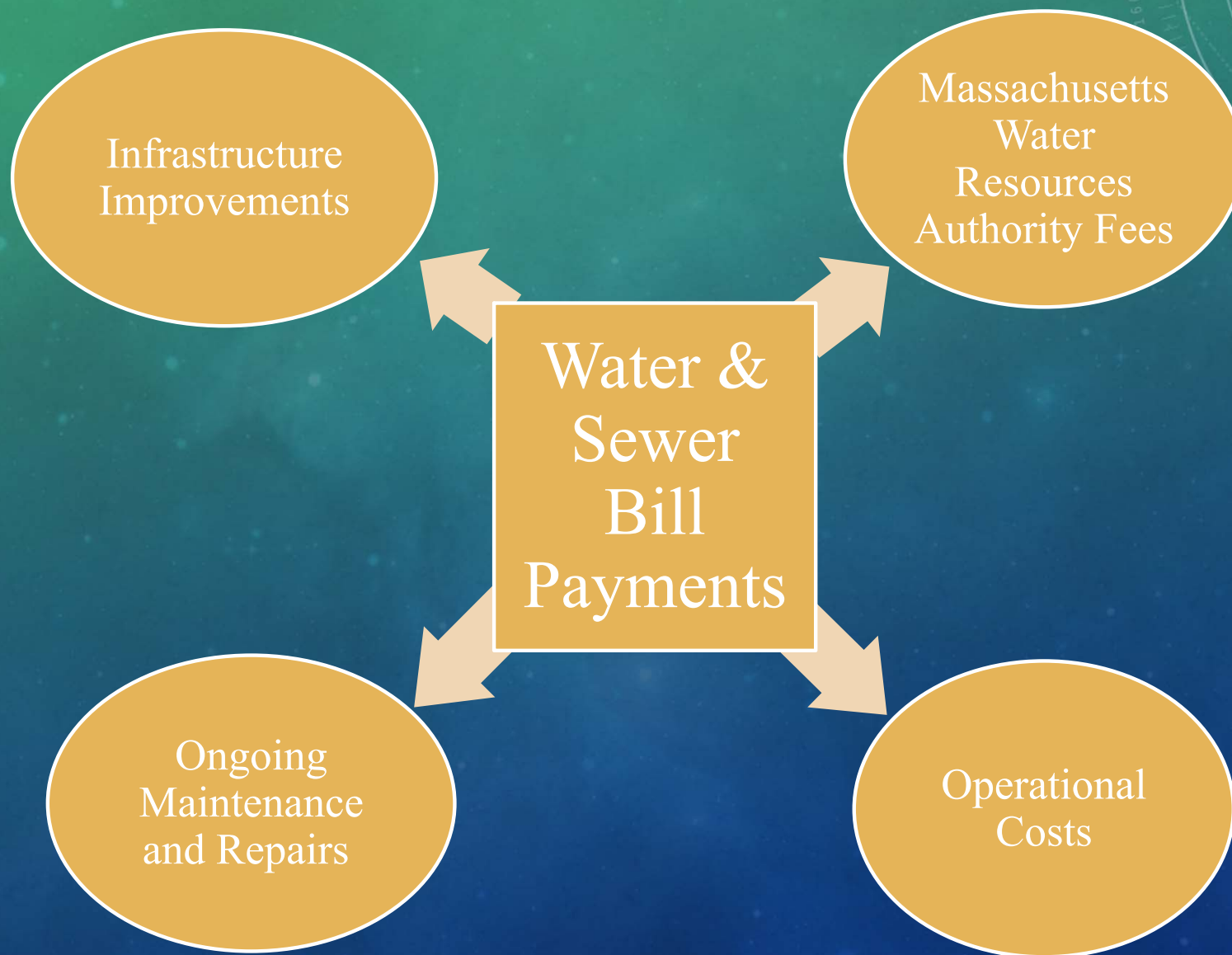
Maintain
services

Make
necessary
repairs

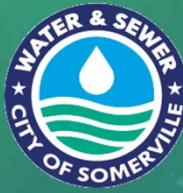
Replace and
improve
infrastructure

Comply with
regulatory
requirements

WATER & SEWER ENTERPRISE FUNDS ARE SEPARATE FROM THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND BUDGET



COST DRIVERS TO FY24 RATE RECOMMENDATION



INCREASE IN
MWRA FEES



\$500M FOR NEEDED
INFRASTRUCTURE
UPGRADE AND
REPLACEMENT



INFLATION AND
HIGHER
INTEREST
RATES



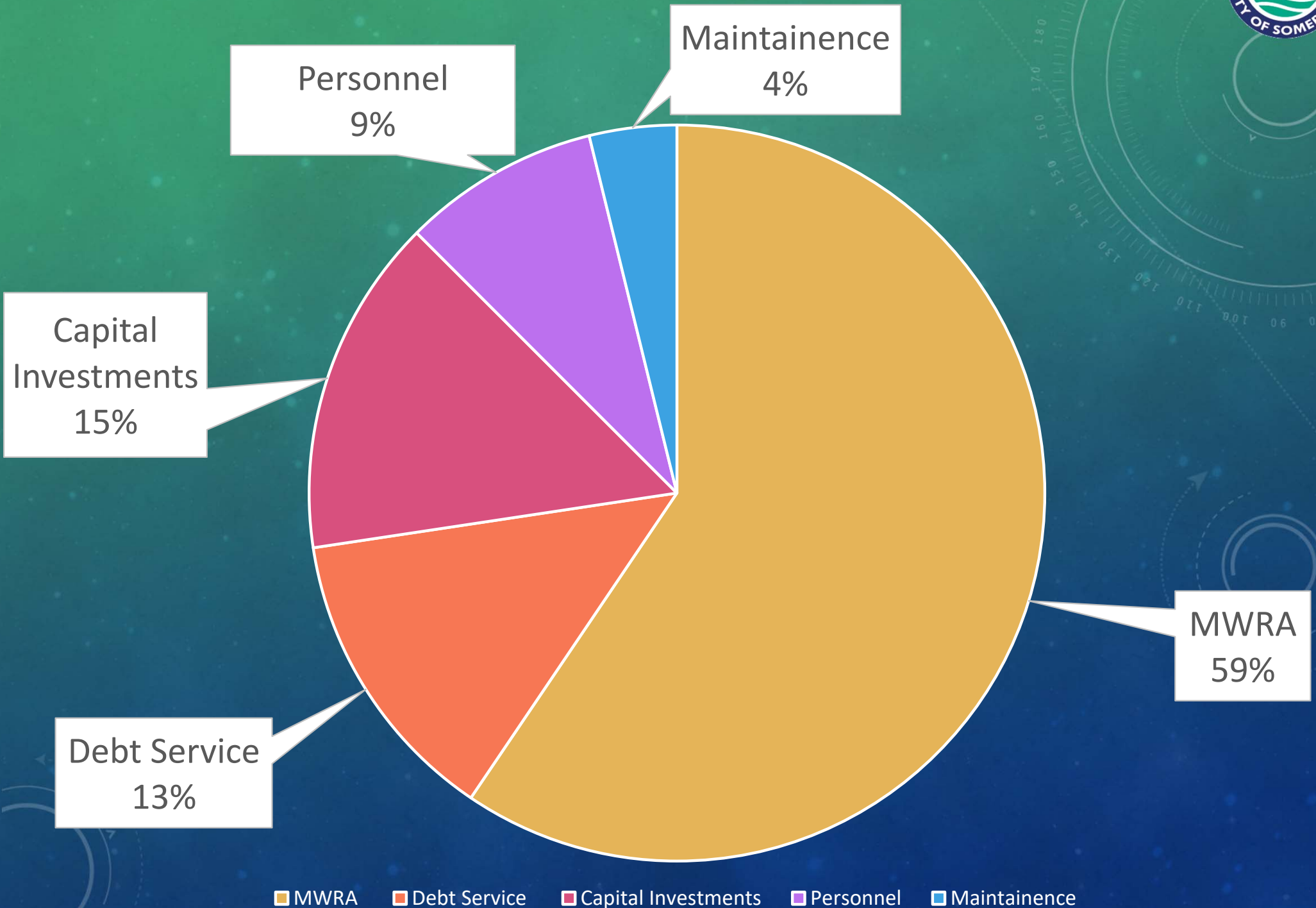
REGULATORY
REQUIREMENTS



5% MWRA Sewer Assessment
Change for FY24

.25% MWRA Water
Assessment Change for FY24

Water & Sewer Dept Finances



MAJORITY OF WATER AND SEWER EXPENSES GO TO MWRA ASSESSMENTS



WATER

50%

Cost of **water** supply from
MWRA as a percentage of
Water Enterprise Fund
Expenses

SEWER

49%

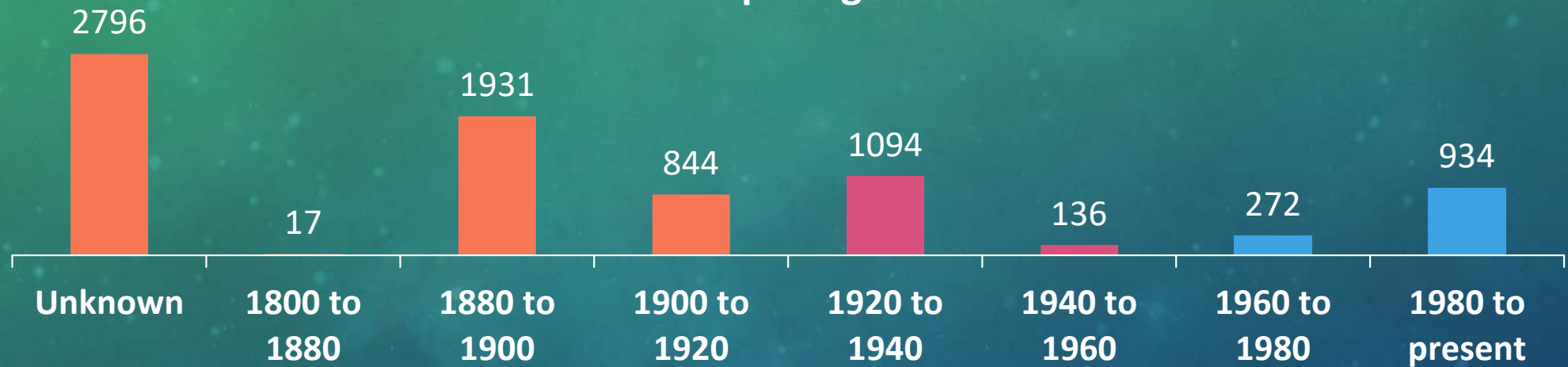
Cost of treatment of
wastewater by MWRA as a
percentage of Sewer Enterprise
Fund Expenses



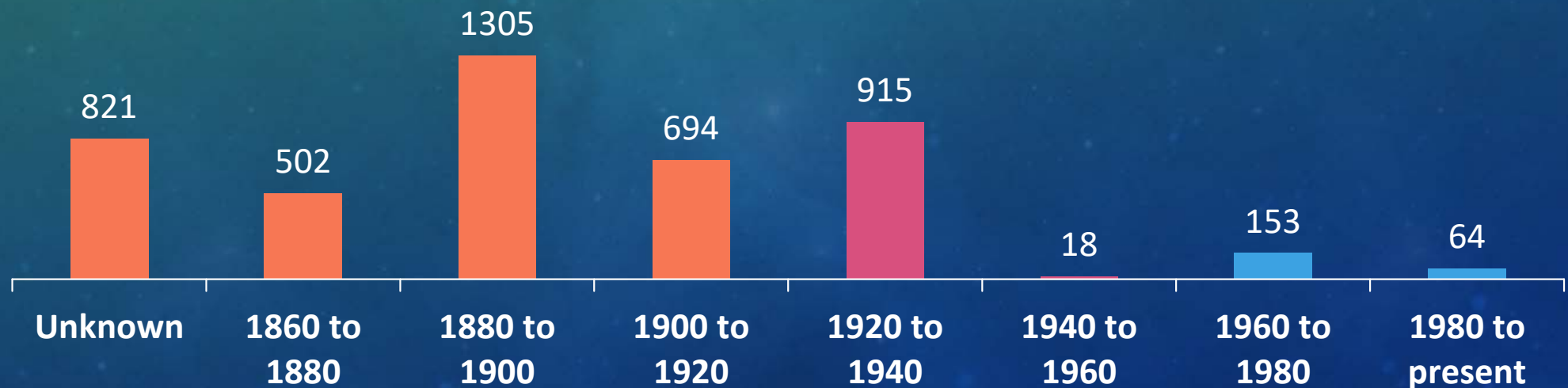
90% OF OUR PIPES ARE OVER 50 YEARS OLD

70% ARE OLDER THAN 100 YEARS

Water Line Pipe Segments Built



Sewer & Drain Line Pipe Segments Built





IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FY2024

Sewer Projects	Amount
Somerville Ave Improvements	\$1.5M
Sewer System Evaluation Study	\$1M
Poplar St Pump Station	\$102M
Sewer Improvements	\$150K

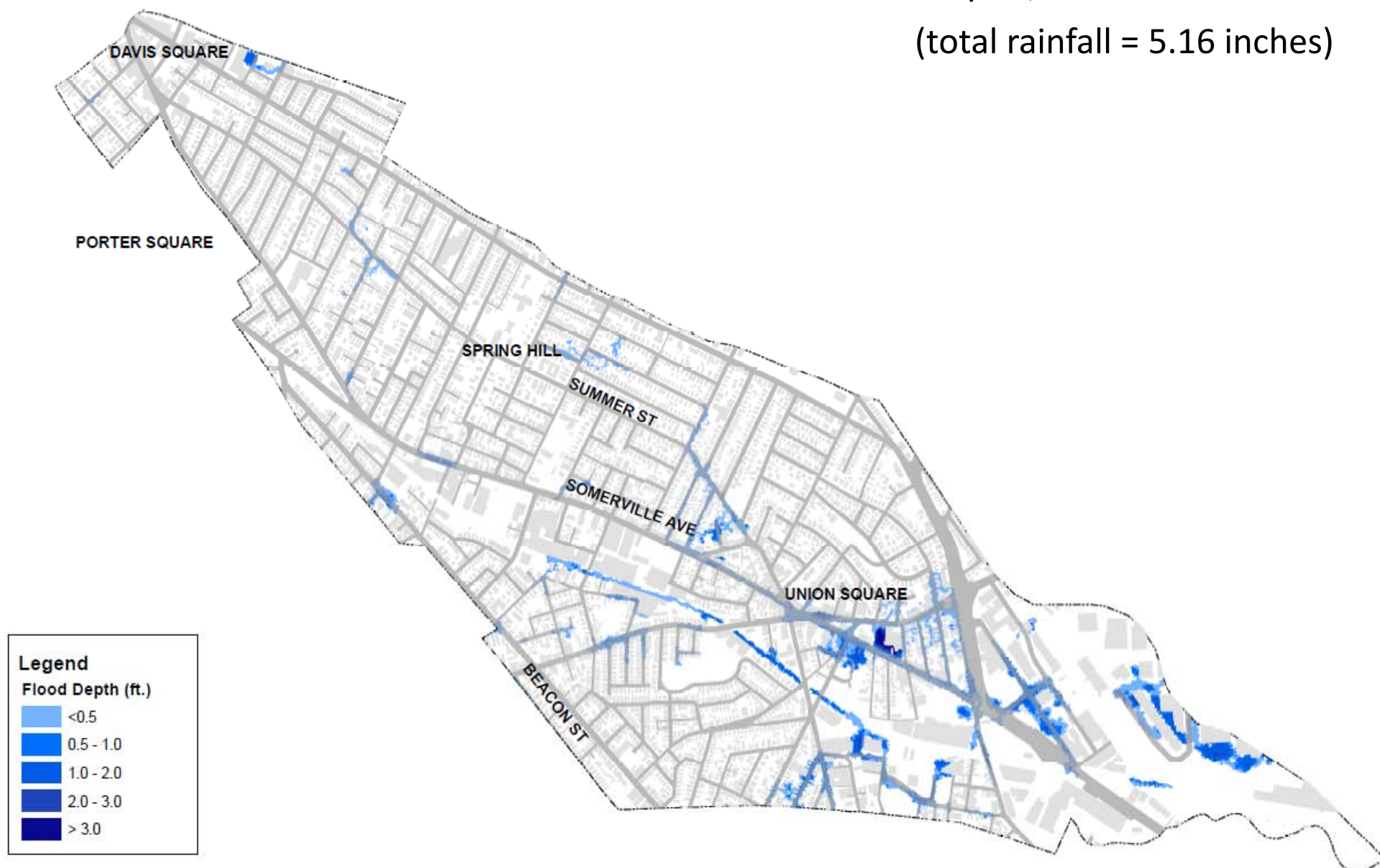
Water Projects	Amount
Lead Service Line Replacement	\$200K
Spring Hill	\$200K
City Wide Meter Replacement	\$200K
Water Improvements	\$400K

LEGACY FLOODING PROBLEMS



FLOODING BEFORE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

10-year, 24-hour storm event
(total rainfall = 5.16 inches)





POPLAR STREET PUMP STATION FINANCING STRATEGY

- Total authorization: \$102M
- Apply \$10M from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act)
- Utilize \$5M from Sewer Stabilization fund
- Accept up to \$2.5M federal earmark
- Borrow remainder in tranches through bonding
- Bond Authorization of \$89M



CITY WIDE METER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

- No Charge for Meter or Replacement Work
- Replacement currently underway
- Property owners will be/have been notified to schedule an appointment (3rd party vendor Mass Installation, Inc.)



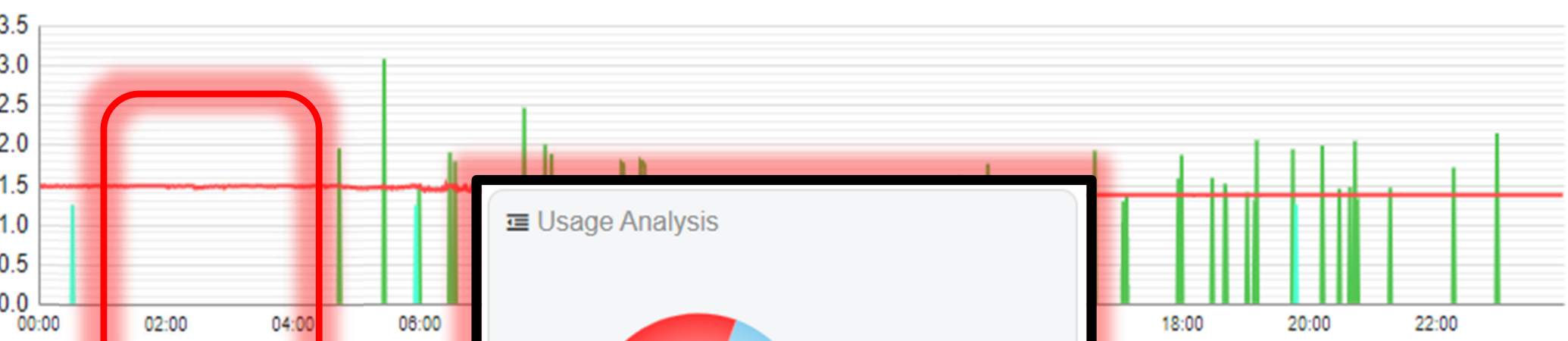
PLEASE, KEEP YOUR PROPERTY'S PHONE NUMBER UP TO DATE!



If you would like to receive information/alerts on your water/sewer usage please contact Mass Installation, Inc. at 1-800-933-1360 or email the information to customerservice@massinstallation.com with the Subject: WaterScope Opt-In

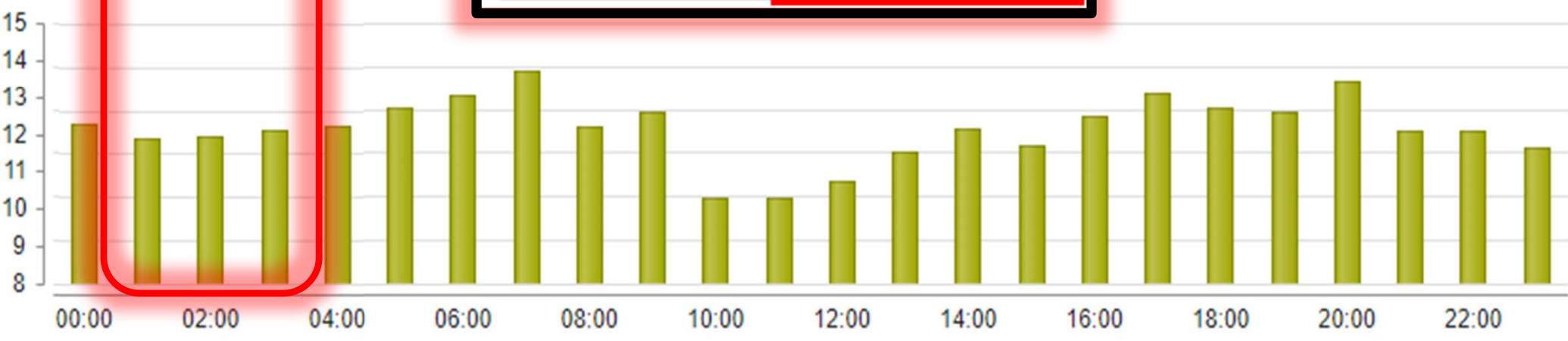
Daily Usage

Flow Rate(GPM)



Consumption History

Consumption(Ft3)



Usage Analysis



- Residential
- Irrigation
- Leak

Leak: 264.52 FT3; 90.70%



PROPOSED RATE ADJUSTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Base
Charges

No
Change

Water
Rates

11%
Increase

Sewer
Rates

17%
Increase



FY24 WATER AND SEWER RESIDENTIAL RATES

FY 2024 Residential Volumetric Charges (\$/Billing Unit*)				
Tier	Tier Range (per CCF)	Water	Sewer	Combined
Discount Rate	0-8	\$5.53	\$11.61	\$17.14
Tier 1	9-13	\$6.17	\$12.91	\$19.08
Tier 2	14-67	\$8.88	\$16.46	\$25.34
Tier 3	68-133	\$9.30	\$17.27	\$26.57
Tier 4	Over 133	\$9.67	\$17.88	\$27.55



FY24 WATER AND SEWER COMMERCIAL RATES

FY 2024 Commercial Volumetric Charges (\$/Billing Unit*)

Tier	Tier Range (per CCF)	Water	Sewer	Combined
Tier 1	0-13	\$6.17	\$12.91	\$19.08
Tier 2	14-67	\$8.88	\$16.46	\$25.34
Tier 3	68-133	\$9.30	\$17.27	\$26.57
Tier 4	Over 133	\$9.67	\$17.88	\$27.55



KEY CUSTOMER IMPACTS

Total Change in Annual Costs for Various Billing Units (including base & volumetric charges, amended)				
Total Units per Bill (in CCF)	FY 2023 Annual Total	FY 2024 Annual Total	\$ Change (FY 2024 - FY 2023)	% Change
15 (average condo unit)	\$919	\$1,030	\$111	12%
18 (average single-family home)	\$1,118	\$1,257	\$139	12%
30 (average two-family home)	\$1,912	\$2,170	\$258	13%
42 (average three-family home)	\$2,707	\$3,082	\$375	14%
110 (average 8-unit apartment building)	\$7,347	\$8,411	\$1,064	14%



INCREASE IN
MWRA FEES



UPGRADE AND
REPLACE
AGING
INFRASTRUCTURE



INFLATION
AND HIGHER
INTEREST
RATES



REGULATORY
REQUIREMENTS



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTS

- Ongoing policy of no water shut-offs for non-payment
- Exemptions for seniors and others (e.g., clauses 17D and 41C)
 - *Visit the Assessor's office page on the City Website <https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/finance/assessing>*
- *Water Affordability program*
 - *Call (617)665-6234*
 - *[cambridgema.gov/iwantto/applyforfuelassistance](https://www.cambridgema.gov/iwantto/applyforfuelassistance)*

WATER AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM





UPCOMING CITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Preliminary program details:
 - Owner-occupied households
 - This program, initially, will be a three-year pilot program, set to begin accepting applications in 2024
 - \$500/\$1000 tiered assistance

| Updated Abatement Policy



UPCOMING CITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TIERS

Eligible Income Range	Number of Owner-Occupied Homes	Prospective Annual Assistance Amount
\$0 to \$19,999	959	\$1000
\$20,000 to \$49,999	1251	\$500



PUBLIC HEARING



- Public Hearing will begin promptly at 6:30PM
 - **Please write your name in the Q&A box and you will be called on in order**
- Written comments may be submitted by 6:00 p.m. on Monday May 22nd, 2023 to:
 - water@somervillema.gov or mail to
 - Demetrios Vidalis, P.E., SHEP,
Director of Water and Sewer
17 Franey Rd,
Somerville, MA 02145