



water works

The Plainview Water District Newsletter

No Tax-Rate Increase for Second Straight Year

The Plainview Water District is proud to announce that there has been no increase in the 2009 water rate schedule as well as a zero percent tax-rate increase for the second consecutive year. In light of the current economic times, the Plainview Water District is sensitive to the needs of its consumers and continues to look for new ways to reduce costs in order to maintain its current water rates, which are one of the lowest in the area. The Plainview Water District, as well as most Long Island water suppliers, provides water at rates that are on average 10 percent less than the national average. What other Long Island utility can make that statement?

More importantly, the Plainview Water District provides the highest quality water available at the lowest rates possible. The Plainview Water District is dedicated to utilizing the best available technologies so as to continue to meet or exceed the high standards it prides itself on maintaining both now and in the future.

The 2009 water rate schedule is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Up to 10,000 gallons - | \$ 7.25 minimum |
| 10,000 to 40,000 gallons - | \$ 1.20 per 1,000 |
| 40,000 to 100,000 gallons - | \$ 1.65 per 1,000 |
| Over 100,000 gallons - | \$ 2.40 per 1,000 |

What Makes The Plainview Water District So Special?

The Plainview Water District was established in 1928, serving all of Plainview and Old Bethpage and also small portions of Syosset and Woodbury. Today, more than 80 years later, the District continues to meet all mandated regulatory requirements as well as the important needs of our residents.

Some Facts About the District!

The Plainview Water District is considered a special district. According to the Municipal Research and Services Center (mrsc.org), "special purpose districts" are entities generally created through the county legislative authority to meet a specific need of the local community. In Plainview Water District's case, the "specific need" is a supply of clean drinking water, and the "local community" is you, our consumers.

An elected three-member Board of Commissioners governs the District. The residents who reside within the boundaries of the Plainview Water District elect all three Commissioners, who live in the community as well, to terms of three years. The Board's primary responsibilities include the approval and authorization of expenditures and annual budget; establishment of water rates, tax rates and fees /charges; and establishment and promulgation of District ordinances and policies. The Superintendent, classified and hired pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Nassau County Civil Service Commission, is responsible for the day-to-day management of the District and reports to the Board of Commissioners on a regular basis. The Superintendent holds a New York State Grade I-B Water Plant Operator Certification

and, in the case of the Plainview Water District, the Superintendent has a bachelor's degree in Engineering, a master's degree in Environmental Studies and coursework completed towards a PhD in Environmental Science.

Presently, high-quality potable water, meeting all mandated local, state and federal regulatory requirements, is supplied to over 10,700 accounts, a population of approximately 36,000 people, within a nine square-mile area through 130.4 miles of water main. The Plainview Water District maintains 12 supply wells which are screened in the Magothy aquifer at six different sites, providing a maximum design capacity of 22.44 million gallons per day. A thirteenth well with a capacity of 1,400 GPM is currently in the design phase and is scheduled to begin in fall 2009. In addition, the District maintains four storage facilities with a total design capacity of 6.25 million gallons.

All of the water sales, fees and tax revenue collected by the District stay within the District and are used to support the operation and infrastructure needs of the water supply and distribution system. Though, by definition, the Plainview Water District is indeed "special," the District Commissioners understand that what is truly special about the District are the people they serve. The Commissioners of the Plainview Water District are committed to supplying each of our residents with pure water that meets the most stringent standards, and continually evaluate the services provided in order to meet and exceed your expectations.

The True Cost of Consolidation

In these times of economic uncertainty, New York State officials are exploring various means to lessen the spending burden on taxpayers. Governor Paterson recently signed a Bill that calls for the consolidation of local special districts, including the Plainview Water District, into a single entity. **Through this plan, the Plainview Water District would no longer be able to provide programs and services directly to its residents. Under a consolidated district, a water main break in Plainview or Old Bethpage would no longer be a priority.** The Plainview Water District wholeheartedly supports saving taxpayer dollars, but consolidating and removing local control from a system that is working exceptionally well is certainly not in the best interest of our consumers.

The following is an open letter from Assemblyman Joseph Saladino in response to correspondence sent to him regarding the concept of consolidation:

Dear Constituent:

I want to thank you for contacting me regarding Assembly bill 8501, Consolidation of Local Government Entities. I, along with many constituents like yourself, am very concerned about the detrimental effects this legislation would have on our local communities, towns and of course, our volunteer emergency first responders. That is why I voted against this flawed bill.

First, I support consolidation efforts that are fair, well thought out, and guarantee substantial savings to our overburdened taxpayers. I also compliment the State Attorney General for his initiatives, concern and proposals to address the most important problem facing New Yorkers – escalating property taxes and their effects on property owners, jobs and those who seek employment or homeownership in our state.

Unfortunately, the bill recently proposed by New York State Assembly Democrats did not contain any language that would guarantee taxpayer savings. In addition, it could allow an entity such as Nassau County, which is currently running an enormous deficit, to take over our towns who have a near

perfect bond rating and who are running government in an exemplary fashion. The motivation would be to take over local government finances in an effort to bail out the county's deficit without property tax reduction.

Another concern of the legislation in question is that it enables the Assembly to claim victory in taxpayer relief, when in reality the bill does not ensure any such relief. A better solution would be to pass the Property Taxpayers Protection Act, which guarantees savings and drives a larger and more fair share of state aid to Long Island schools and municipalities. This legislation would bring about purchase consolidation, resulting in a considerable lowering of the unit cost of supplies and expenses such as health insurance among many other proper and necessary cost reduction initiatives.

We must make real property tax savings the highest priority and we must get this done immediately. It is important that the public not be lulled into partial plans which do not guarantee a substantial solution. It is my hope that the Legislature will seriously consider many of the solutions I have proposed with my colleagues which will guarantee real savings and protect municipalities like the Town of Oyster Bay and the Town of Hempstead which are financially sound, providing quality service at an affordable price.

As you have stated very accurately, this bill also places our volunteer first responders at risk of dissolution. We value and hold their dedicated public service in high regard. Taxpayers cannot afford the extra burden of financing what could become paid emergency services as a result of a consolidation effort without safeguards.

I want to thank you again for taking the time to express your concerns. Please share my views with your members, friends and neighbors.

The Plainview Water District urges all of its consumers to educate themselves as to the true meaning and cost of this consolidation bill that becomes effective in March 2010. We will all see increased rates and a decrease in service if this bill continues unaltered.

PWD Water Exceeds Testing Standards

Supplying the highest quality drinking water to tens of thousands of residents is truly a 24/7 operation, and one that the District undertakes with professionalism and precision.

The Water District pumps ground water from wells located throughout the Plainview-Old Bethpage area. These wells reach deep underground into the Magothy aquifer, a huge underground layer of sand and gravel that contains trillions of gallons of fresh water. From this natural source, the District withdraws over 1.5 billion gallons of water that is distributed to more than 10,000 households and businesses in the community.

Monitoring and maintaining this massive amount of water is a daunting task, but the Plainview Water District's team of professionals is well equipped for the job. The District's plant operators routinely monitor the drinking water supply for over 135 separate parameters, including bacteria, organic contaminants, lead, copper and many more. Adhering to strict standards from federal, state and county environmental agencies and health departments – and often exceeding recommended testing protocol – the Water District tests water samples on a daily, weekly or quarterly basis depending on the parameters. Results of these tests are published each year in an annual drinking water quality report, which is available at the Plainview Water District office at 10 Manetto Hill Road.

Community Survey

This survey is designed to give you, our consumers, an opportunity to voice your opinions and to provide valuable insight about important matters concerning the Plainview Water District. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it to the Plainview Water District, 10 Manetto Hill Road, Plainview, New York 11830. Alternatively, you may complete the survey on our website, www.plainviewwater.org.

Part I: District Services

1. Has a Plainview Water District employee ever visited your house for a maintenance issue? (Does not include regular water-meter readings.)

Yes No

a) If you replied "yes" to question 1, was the issue resolved to your satisfaction?

Very much so Not entirely
 Not at all

b) If you replied "yes" to question 1, was it resolved in a timely manner?

Yes No

c) If you replied "yes" to question 1, was the service person courteous?

Very much so Somewhat
 Not very Not at all

d) If you were not satisfied with how the Plainview Water District resolved and/or handled your particular problem, please briefly describe the problem you encountered with the Plainview Water District and/or employee:

2. Have you ever had occasion to speak with a Plainview Water District employee on the telephone?

Yes No

a) If you answered "yes" to question 2, was the employee courteous?

Very much so Somewhat
 Not very Not at all

b) If you were not satisfied with how the Plainview Water District resolved and/or handled your particular problem, please briefly describe the problem you encountered with the Plainview Water District and/or employee:

3. Have you ever had any problem involving Plainview Water District services or employee(s) that was unresolved?

a) If you answered "yes" to question 3, was the employee courteous?

Yes No

b) If yes, please explain:

4. Please provide any additional information you would like to

share with us about your experience with Plainview Water District services:

5. Overall, how would you rate the services you receive from the Plainview Water District?

Excellent Very good
 Good Fair
 Poor

Part II: Consolidation of Local Special Districts

1. The state-level proposal to consolidate your water district has been an issue of much recent attention. How familiar are you with the issues concerning Plainview Water District's possible consolidation?

Very familiar Somewhat familiar
 Not very familiar Not at all familiar

2. If you are at all familiar with the consolidation issues, please indicate how you obtained your information (Check any and all that apply):

Plainview Water District newsletter(s)
 Local newspapers Internet
 Other (Please specify) _____

3. How well do you feel you understand the issues concerning consolidation?

Very well Somewhat
 Not very well Not at all

4. Based on what you currently know, what is your opinion about the possible consolidation of Plainview Water District?

Strongly in favor Somewhat in favor
 Indifferent Somewhat opposed
 Strongly opposed

5. Would you be interested in attending a Public Information Meeting held by the Plainview Water District that would discuss the issues surrounding the dissolution or consolidation of the Plainview Water District and how it would affect you, our consumer?

Yes No

6. Please provide any additional information you would like to share concerning your current position/concerns about consolidation:

7. How important is it to you that Plainview Water District Commissioners reside in the community?

Very important Somewhat important
 Not very important Not at all important
 Not at all important

Board of Commissioners
Plainview Water District
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Plainview, NY 11803
(516) 931-6469
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Kevin Langberg, Chairman
Joel R. Kessler, Treasurer
Edward Shulroff, Secretary
Richard W. Tobin, Superintendent



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Summertime Water Conservation

Though we had a great deal of rain at the start of the season, Plainview Water District Board of Commissioners would like to remind residents of the urgent need to conserve our water. Now that we're seeing the sun again, water usage is on the rise as residents sprinkle lawns, wash cars and maintain pools. The commissioners would like to remind Plainview Water District consumers of the importance of maintaining the same high-quality water supply for future generations. Following are some reminders about the significance of saving our precious water supply:

- **Saving water** lessens the strains on the water-pumping system. This helps to avoid water use restrictions so that essential fire fighting needs are met.
- **Saving water** will improve overall water pressure.
- **Saving water** saves electric energy.
- **Saving water** ensures a plentiful supply for all our needs now and for future generations.

Remember conserving our water benefits everyone and will help you save water and money. If you have any questions regarding conservation, please contact the Plainview Water District at (516) 931-6469.

PWD Takes a Healthy Step

The Plainview Water District commissioners recently took a lead role in a health-focused initiative, implementing a smoking ban outside of its administration building. The concept for the ban, which prohibits smoking within 20 feet of the building's entryway, was proposed to the commissioners by Carol Meschkow, the Tobacco Action Coalition's Nassau Coordinator. Plainview Water District is proud to implement such a ban.

“As long-time community residents themselves, the commissioners have established a reputation for being on the cutting edge in assuring the safest, purest water supply and have actively advocated for the protection of the local aquifer. The residents of the Plainview-Old Bethpage community are fortunate to have a water purveyor with local residents as elected officials acting on their behalf.”

- Carol Meschkow