



Agenda Date: 11/13/19
Agenda Item: VB

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

WATER

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF MOUNT)
OLIVE VILLAGES WATER COMPANY, INC. FOR)
APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR)
WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF)
CHANGES)
)
) DOCKET NO. WR19060770
) OAL DOCKET NO. PUC09375-2019

Parties of Record:

Stephen B. Genzer, Esq., Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr, LLP, on behalf of Mount Olive Villages Water Company, Inc.
Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director, New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

On June 28, 2019, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, 48:2-21.2, 48:3-7.1 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12, Mount Olive Villages Water Company, Inc. ("Company" or "Petitioner"), a public utility of the State of New Jersey, subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities ("Board"), filed a verified petition seeking to increase its rates for water service amounting to approximately \$186,160 or 71.79%. The increase in water rates is proposed to become effective for service rendered on and after 30 days from the filing date of the Company's petition.¹

Mount Olive Villages Water Company provides water service to approximately 353 customers in a portion of the Township of Mount Olive, Morris County, New Jersey.

The Petitioner states in its petition that its rates are not sufficient to provide for the operating expenses necessary to provide safe, adequate and proper public service.

¹ The Company indicated in the petition that it sought approval to increase rates for water service rendered on or before August 1, 2019. By letter dated July 3, 2019, the Petitioner notified the Board that it would not implement the proposed rates on an interim basis prior to the effective date of the Board's Suspension Order resulting from the Board's August 7, 2019 meeting, but that this "will not change the intention of the Company to implement the proposed rates at the conclusion of the eight-month suspension period on April 1, 2020, should the Board not issue a final Decision and Order by that date."

On July 10, 2019, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for hearings. The case was assigned to Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") Jacob Gertsman. On August 7, 2019, the Board issued an Order suspending the Company's proposed rate increase until December 1, 2019.

A telephone pre-hearing conference was convened by ALJ Gertsman on July 31, 2019 and a procedural schedule was agreed to by the parties.

On October 2, 2019, a public hearing was held at the Mount Olive Township Municipal Building in Budd Lake, New Jersey at 5:30 p.m. ALJ Gail Cookson presided over the hearing. Approximately 27 members of the public appeared at the hearing, and 10 people spoke in opposition to the proposed rate increase. Those members of the public who spoke at the hearing addressed issues concerning the financial hardship imposed upon senior citizens if the Company's rate case is approved.

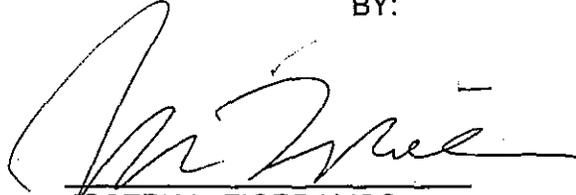
It appearing that the proposed revisions will increase existing rates and change or alter existing classifications in Petitioner's tariff, it is **HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- (1) Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-21, the proposed revisions be, and are further suspended until April 1, 2020, unless prior to that date, the Board makes a determination disposing of the petition.
- (2) Petitioner shall, at least 10 days prior to the date set for hearing on the petition by the Office of Administrative Law, file with this Board and with the Office of Administrative Law (33 Washington Street, Newark, NJ 07102), proof of compliance with the Notice provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:2-32.2 and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.12(b) and (c), which Notice shall include a statement that any relief found by the Board to be just and reasonable may be allocated by the Board to any class or classes of customers on any rate or schedule as the Board may determine; and
- (3) Petitioner shall serve copies of this Order upon the Office of Administrative Law, the Division of Rate Counsel (140 East Front Street, Post Office Box 003, 4th Floor, Trenton, NJ 08625), the clerk of the affected municipality, the clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the affected county, and where appropriate, the executive officer of the affected county within its service area. Service of the petition, notice of hearings and this Order may be made simultaneously. Proof of service of this Order shall be filed with the Board within 15 days of the date of this Order.

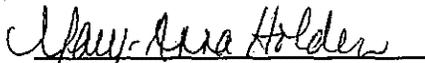
This Order shall be effective on November 23, 2019.

DATED: 11/13/19

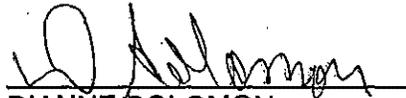
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:



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ATTEST:



AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH
SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within
document is a true copy of the original
in the files of the Board of Public Utilities.

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF MOUNT OLIVE VILLAGES WATER COMPANY, INC.,
FOR APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN RATES FOR WATER SERVICE AND OTHER TARIFF
CHANGES

BPU DOCKET NO. WR19060770
OAL DOCKET NO. PUC 09375-2019

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