

From: Marc Samwick <mayor@scarsdale.com>
Subject: Re: Water bill
Date: December 18, 2019 at 2:19:53 PM EST
To: Anne Schager <annebrdnce@yahoo.com>

Anne,

Thank you for your email.

The Village has raised water rates over the past few years as part of a planned program to place the Village Water Department on firmer footing. The Water Department has faced increasing costs associated with managing a century-old water system, including significant work at our pumping stations and water storage tanks as well as ongoing work on our underground distribution system. The Village is fortunate to have started with very low water rates, by comparable county standards. The rate increases have nevertheless caused real disruption, as you noted.

The Village receives its water from the NYC water system and, therefore, we are subject to the rates and requirements of the NYC system. For example, Scarsdale residents are subject to overage water rates of 3x the regular water rates based on usage in excess of the average usage of NYC water customers. The Village has fought the NYC water rates on a continuous basis and will continue to do so.

The Village Board is genuinely sorry about the impact that the water rate increases have had on you and your family and we take all water rate increases very seriously. I believe the Village is in the last year or two of the planned increases in water rates that are expected to stabilize the finances of the Water Department.

You are welcome to follow the discussion and comment on water rates as the Village Board commences its budget review and deliberations in January.

Best regards,

Marc

On Dec 17, 2019, at 4:01 PM, Anne Schager <annebrdnce@yahoo.com> wrote:

CAUTION: External sender.

Apparently my outrage at this ridiculously high bill should be directed to you.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stephen Johnson <sjohnson@scarsdale.com>

Subject: RE: Water bill

Date: November 26, 2019 at 9:37:47 AM EST

To: Anne Schager <annebrdnce@yahoo.com>

Ms. Schager,

The Water Department does not set water rates for the Village of Scarsdale. Rates are set by the Mayor and Board of Trustees. Rates are discussed during public meetings that pertain to the annual Scarsdale Budget each year before any rates are increased.

Respectfully,

Stephen A. Johnson

Water Superintendent

Village of Scarsdale

1001 Post Road

Scarsdale, NY 10583

Tel: 914 722-1138

Fax: 914 722-8315

From: Anne Schager [<mailto:annebrdnce@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 5:21 PM

To: Stephen Johnson <sjohnson@scarsdale.com>

Subject: Water bill

CAUTION: External sender.

My summer bill is outrageously high and outrageously higher—by **40%!!!** In spite of only 12% higher water usage—than last year's already untenable one. Who set these extortionate rates & by what authority? Don't residents have any say in these policies? \$6,500 for 3 months watering (of a 1 acre property) is an unconscionable amount. Why did the public have nothing to say in the setting of these rates, which appear to have been just handed down in an authoritarian manner by your department.

Anne Schager
58 Garden Road