



SICTA Alert 3/16/09

WATER & SEWER RATES ARE ONE BIG CESSPOOL

In January 2009 the Mayor proposed a new municipal budget that called for an 8% property tax increase and a 15% increase in water and sewer rates. The latter increase follows the 60+% increase enacted only two years ago. SICTA established committees to review the proposed increases.

The SICTA Committees discovered:

- **The City has misallocated more than \$800,000 in expenses to the water and sewer utility from the municipal budget.** This action avoids cutting the municipal budget to conform to the State Budget Cap requirements and increases your water and sewer bills.
- **For every 1,000 gallons of sewage, the City charges larger volume customers \$1.50, but pays the County MUA roughly \$7.10 to treat the City's sewage.** This difference is paid for by larger base charges for everyone.
- **The City refuses to respond in a timely fashion** to these and other recommendations in our committee reports.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

City Council will consider an Ordinance on the Water and Sewer Rate Structure at its meeting on Tuesday, March 17th at 10:00 AM. If possible, please attend the meeting and voice your objections to the increases. If you can not attend the Council meeting, send an email to the Council Members at the following addresses:

John Divney, Council President
Frank Edwardi, Councilperson

jdivney@seaislecitynj.us
fedwardijr@seaislecitynj.us

William Kehner, Councilperson
Michael McHale, Councilperson
Mary Tighe, Councilperson

wkehner@seaislecitynj.us
mmchale@seaislecitynj.us
mtighe@seaislecitynj.us

[FOR MORE INFORMATION -- www.sicta.org](http://www.sicta.org)

The complete reports of the two SICTA Committees that deal with the Budget Allocation and the Water and Sewer Rate Structure can be found on the SICTA website, www.sicta.org. Please see the item labeled "SICTA Research: 2009 water and sewer study" in the Important News section.