

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP WATER DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Town of Friendship Water Department gives notice to the public that on **02/04/2019** at **5:00PM** at the Friendship Town Office, the Selectmen will hold a public hearing to discuss and hear comments on a proposed water rate increase.

The percent increase across the board for residential and commercial customers will be 5.3% beginning April 1, 2019. The minimum rate charged for all 5/8" meters will increase from \$40.00 to \$42.12 per quarter for the first 1200 cubic feet, \$3.55 per hundred cubic feet thereafter.

Metered rates for all 2" meters will increase from \$303.26 to \$319.33 per quarter for the first 1200 cubic feet, \$3.55 per hundred cubic feet thereafter.

The Town of Friendship Water Department faces rising operating and maintenance costs. Rates are to become effective on April 1, 2019.

Pursuant to 35-A MRSA Section (6104), a customer has the right to request additional information relating to the present and proposed rates from the Utility, the right to an open and fair hearing, and the right to assistance from the Public Advocate. Customers also have the right under 35-A MRSA Section (6104) to petition the Maine Public Utilities Commission to suspend and investigate the Utility's rates pursuant to 35-A MRSA Section 310, if within 30 days of the public hearing, 5 of the Utilities customers (15% of customers or 1000 customers, whichever is less) file with the Town's Treasurer, Friendship, ME and with the Public Utilities Commission, c/o Administrative Director, State House Station #18, Augusta, ME 04333-0018, a petition or petitions demanding review by the PUC of the proposed rate changes. Signatures on the petitions filed pursuant to Section 7 are valid unless accompanied by the printed names and addresses of the signers. Upon request the Town will provide names and addresses of the signers.

A copy of material supporting the proposed rate changes will be available at the Friendship Town Office for inspection on and after January 2, 2019. If you have any questions or desire additional information, you may call Andrea Reichert at (207) 628-5411 or the Administrative Director of the PUC at (207) 287-3831. For additional assistance, contact the Public Advocate, State House Station, #112, Augusta, ME 04333-0112, (207) 287-2445.