

## **Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS)**

### **News Advisory**

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### **MAWSS Board Approves Budget Without a Rate Increase**

The Board of Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) passed a \$59.2 million Operations and Maintenance Budget Monday that does not include a proposed 5 percent rate hike for 2017. MAWSS staff had recommended the increase to help fund capital projects that would repair and replace aging infrastructure to better protect public health and the environment. While acknowledging the criticality of the infrastructure needs, MAWSS Director Charles Hyland recommended eliminating the increase in 2017 to allow an ongoing Cost of Service and Rate Study to conclude. The study could recommend rate restructuring as well as increases in 2018 and beyond.

“The Board is acutely aware of our need to renew aging infrastructure but wants to review the completed report before asking for another rate increase,” said Hyland. “This will allow us time to put together a more comprehensive plan to address long term needs and affordability.”

Hyland emphasized that capital projects planned for 2017 and beyond to address wet weather sanitary sewer overflows will continue to move forward as planned with funding through State Revolving Fund loans.

MAWSS as a public utility receives no tax money and is totally funded by ratepayers.