City Clerk

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BY:

I am asking that each of you please take the time to read and review the following information regarding the 2027 Water Department Budget proposal and information I am providing.

I have been involved with working and learning the management, process and structure of how the service of water is maintained and delivered since 1975 where I started at the Oneida Water Dept. and still continuing to be involved for over 50 years since my retirement from the city in 2010. I assist and help manage The Town of Stockbridge Water, and I am currently the Chairmen of the Oneida Water Board. I feel it very important to share some very important facts and hope I gain your approval and support of my opinions. I am a lifelong Oneida resident and have had the pleasure of having Oneida water presently and at our family's home since 1963.

Recently we had another meeting of the Water Board discussing the current status of our Water Dept and its budget. The Water Superintendent and entire Water Board agree that it is imperative that the water rate must increase to our proposed 10% in 2027 to maintain current and future operations and plan for the possibility for expansion that would substantially increase revenue for the city. It is very important for you all to seriously consider the Superintendent's budget package, to ensure the city has the capability to move forward now and not kick the can down the road. I realize the Administration is faced with the ultimate challenge of a property tax increase, which you all realize it is due to a lack of basically past political choices, instead of what was actually best for our city. Being a past 5th Ward Councilor and deputy mayor, I DO understand the past challenges and choices that were made, good and bad! I cannot express enough to you all, that I do understand the importance of this increase and how important you each please vote to increase the rate to 10%, so that the amount removed from the water fund is less than $300,000 Vs. nearly one million. I do know and understand that the choice of "0%" will stall the growth and maintenance needs, while "5%" would only assist the dept. to maintain status quo and STILL put off (again) the growth the city needs to look towards. The Superintendent and all of us on the Water Board urge you to do this for the city's best interest and to allow the Water Dept. to operate with the Superintendent's professional vision of growth and have options to offer water to other areas, including hopes of helping some areas of the city. some with very bad water wells. I ask each of you again to please vote for this increase. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. (315)-264-3617

Thank you! Jim Chamberlain, Water Board Chairmen