



Edwin P. Hettermann
Village President

Claudett E. Peters
Village Administrator

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January 11, 2018

**Chief Clerk
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 East Capitol Ave
Springfield, IL 62701**

RE: Utilities, Inc. - Proposed Rate Increase

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you on behalf of the residents of the Village of Johnsburg regarding the **rate increase proposed by Utilities Inc. The northern portion of our community receives its potable water through Whispering Hills Water System, owned and operated by Utilities Inc. Recently, the Village began receiving phone calls from our residents who are concerned with the impact yet another increase from Utilities, Inc. will have on their household finances. Many of these residents are on fixed incomes, already struggling with the constant increases they experiences from taxes, utilities and other sources. This increase, if approved, will be the third increase in recent years, each of which has been sizeable. Furthermore, each time Utilities Inc. pursues an increase, they represent that the increase is necessary to cover the cost of needed capital improvements and repairs, yet we have not seen any marked improvement in the water system serving our residents.**

In 2009, residents in our community served with a 5/8 inch meter by Utilities, Inc. were paying a monthly flat rate of \$5.14 and a consumption rate of \$3.14 per 1000 gallons. The current proposal would increase those rates to a flat rate of \$35.03 per month and a consumption rate of \$11.08 per 1000 gallons, representing an increase of nearly 682% and 353% respectively. By comparison, the Village also owns and operates water systems in the community for which we charge users a monthly flat rate of \$11.14 and a consumption rate of \$3.14. Additionally, the Village's system is a fire rated system - Utilities Inc. system is not.

We realize the need to establish and fund a capital plan to insure adequate funding to maintain systems and insure that they continue to be self-sustaining in the future. However, we also understand the need to be fiscally responsible in the manner in which the systems operate, as our residents cannot supply a never-ending source of funds to support the systems.

On behalf of our residents, I respectfully ask that you consider the Village's input regarding this proposed increase, and more importantly, consider the potential impact it will have on our residents, many of whom are already struggling to make ends meet. I ask that before a decision is made regarding this proposed increase, you hold a public hearing locally so that our residents have an opportunity to ask questions and express their concerns. Furthermore, I ask that sufficient notification is provided to our residents in advance of any hearing held so that arrangements can be made for our residents to attend. We would be happy to help coordinate an adequate meeting location if you desire.

Village Trustees

Tom Curry Kyle Frost Josh Hagen Mary Lou Hutchinson Greg Klemstein Kevin McEvoy

A Hometown with Spirit

I thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me, or our Village Administrator Claudett Peters, at 815-385-6023.

Respectfully,



Edwin P. Hettermann

Village President

cc: Mike Miller, Midwest Regional Manager – Utilities Inc.

Johnsburg Village Board

Claudett Peters, Village Administrator

Senator Pamela Althoff

State Representative Barbara Wheeler

State Representative Steve Reick

Jack Franks, Chairman - McHenry County Board

Chuck Wheeler, McHenry County Board

John Hammerand, McHenry County Board

Kay Bates, McHenry County Board

Craig Wilcox, McHenry County Board