

RESOLUTION NO 1573

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE SALE OF BUCKS COUNTY WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY'S ASSETS TO AQUA PENNSYLVANIA

WHEREAS, Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCWSA) provides services to about 100,000 households, including those located in Springfield Township, Montgomery County and served by public sewers; and

WHEREAS, BCWSA is considering an offer from Aqua Pennsylvania to purchase its assets for \$1.1 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, Aqua's rates are set through rate-making procedures before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC), and Aqua has a history of increasing its sewer rates substantially, including in those municipalities that sold their private wastewater systems to Aqua including Limerick Township whose rates increased 82%, East Bradford Township whose rates increased 64%, Cheltenham Township whose rates increased 65%, East Norriton Township whose rates increased 57% and New Garden Township whose rates increased 53%; and

WHEREAS, in May 2019 Aqua offered to purchase the wastewater system owned by Warrington Township for \$40,200,000, and anticipated a rate increase of 66% when Aqua next appeared before the PUC; and

WHEREAS, in September 2019 Warrington Township sold its wastewater system to BCWSA for a base price of \$16,150,000, or less than half of what it could have received from Aqua based on its belief that BCWSA had no intention of selling its system to a private utility; and

WHEREAS, the PUC recently approved a rate increase of 59% for Aqua's wastewater customers; and

WHEREAS, at a time when costs are increasing for all Americans, through no fault of local elected officials, residents can scarcely afford an increase in their sewer fees; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township, Montgomery County, believes it is unconscionable for BCWSA to sell its assets to Aqua due to the long-term financial impacts that major increases to sewer rates will have on residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, wastewater services such as those provided by BCWSA are essential to protecting the environment and it is imperative that those services be provided at cost-effective and reasonable fee structures; and

WHEREAS, privatization of BCWSA's assets will ultimately result in negative impacts for local municipalities and their residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township, Montgomery County, is opposed to the sale of BCWSA's assets to Aqua Pennsylvania,

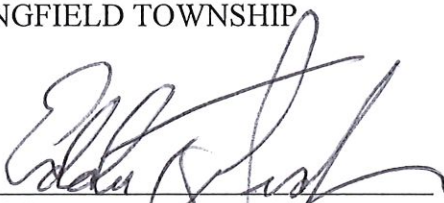
and implores BCWSA to abandon negotiations with Aqua and to continue to operate as an independent, non-profit agency.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Springfield Township, Montgomery County, respectfully requests the Bucks County Board of Commissioners to take all reasonable and necessary steps to compel BCWSA to abandon its negotiations, and to continue operating as an independent, non-profit agency, as intended when it was created in 1962 by the Bucks County Board of Commissioners.

ADOPTED this 10th day of August 2022.


BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP

By:



Eddie T. Graham, President

Attest:



A. Michael Taylor, Secretary