



NEWTOWN TOWNSHIP
100 MUNICIPAL DRIVE
NEWTOWN, PA 18940

August 16, 2022

Bucks County Commissioners
Bucks County Administration Building
55 E. Court Street, 5th Floor
Doylestown, PA 18901

RE: Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority (BCWSA) - Potential Sewer System Sale

Dear Bucks County Commissioners,

This correspondence is being sent on behalf of the Newtown Township Board of Supervisors.

As elected Township officials, we share the common goal of providing valued and cost-effective services to our constituents. Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCWSA) provides services to about 100,000 households, nearly one-third of the County population, in 31 municipalities. BCWSA is the largest single provider of water and sewer services in the County.

BCWSA has recently announced that it is considering an offer from Aqua America to purchase its assets for \$1.1 billion dollars. Aqua has a history of increasing its sewer rates substantially. In May, the Public Utility Commission approved a rate increase of 59% for Aqua's wastewater customers, a figure less than the increase that Aqua requested. Costs in several surrounding counties where Aqua recently purchased the sewer systems have reportedly escalated in excess of 50%.

At a time when costs are increasing for every day essentials for all Bucks County residents, businesses, and households, an increase in sewer fees is undesirable. Current inflation is at the highest rate since November of 1981.

The Board of Supervisors believes it is inadvisable for BCWSA to sell its assets to Aqua. As former Township officials yourselves, we are certain you are cognizant of the uncertainty such a potential sale causes ratepayers. It is imperative that sewer services provide value to consumers at reasonable rates. Our concern is that privatization will ultimately result in negative impacts for local municipalities and their residents.

We respectfully solicit the County Commissioners to take any and all reasonable steps to compel BCWSA to abandon its negotiations with Aqua and for BCWSA to continue operating as an independent, non-profit agency, as intended when it was created in 1962 by the Bucks County Commissioners.

We thank you for the opportunity to express our thoughts and concerns.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience should you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Micah Lewis
Newtown Township Manager

Cc: File
BCATO
Sent via US Mail & Email