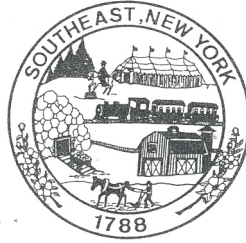


**Special Districts
Administrator**
Bruce Bridges
(845)279-8206



**One Main Street
Brewster, New York 10509**

DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2026
TO: BIRCH HILL WATER DISTRICT RESIDENTS
FROM: SPECIAL DISTRICTS/MS4 ADMINISTRATOR
RE: INFORMATION AND WATER RATE FOR 2026

This correspondence will provide you with the 2026 billing structure and rates for your Water District. Please retain this information for your records.

For the calendar year 2025, actual revenues were sufficient to meet expenditures for the district.

For 2026, water rates are being increased to compensate for inflation, electricity costs and pay for capital repairs.

The 2026 Operation and Maintenance Budget for the water system is \$35,100. The debt service budget is \$27,000. The budget is represented in the following components:

<u>Rate Comparison</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
• Flat rate per quarter	\$400.00	\$450.00	\$475.00
• Cost per gallon	N/A	N/A	N/A

Prior to the January, April, July and October billings, water meters will be read to determine water use for each account. Your cost will be directly affected by your water consumption.

Payment Policy

1. Payments are due within 30 days of the billing date without penalty: the due date is printed on the invoice.
2. Accounts are charged a 5% late fee on current charges for non- or late payments.
3. Returned Check fee will be applied for return payment.
4. For accounts having past due balance as of September 30th, the balance will be sent to Putnam County for levy on the subsequent year's property tax.

Alerts and Notifications

Get alerts and notifications for service interruptions and emergency situations to your Special District. Take the time to sign up for notifications. It is a very simple procedure that only takes a few minutes to do.

Go to the Town's website: <http://southeast-ny.gov/>

- Click on the "**Subscribe**" button located in left column.
- Follow the directions to subscribe.
- You can choose to receive your notifications by e-mail, text or both.
- Pick and choose your Special District and any other Town categories you wish to receive notifications for.
- Once you save, **you only have one last step remaining to complete registration.**
- Go to your e-mail and/or telephone to view the e-mails/texts and confirm your account.

Resident Safety / Security

Your Safety is our concern. Please know that the operators who take water meter readings do not usually ask to enter your home. Meters are read remotely from outside of your home. The employee must have identification with them identifying them as a Town Employee or Representative of VRI, (contracted Operator). If anyone asks you to go into your home to read a meter or make repairs, you have the right to refuse them until you have confirmed their identity with a call to the Special Districts office at 845-279-8206 or the VRI office at 845-677-3839.

Please contact the Special Districts Office, Bruce Bridges, the Town's Special District's/MS4 Administrator, at 845-279-8206 or e-mail specialdistricts@southeast-ny.gov if you have any questions about this letter or throughout the year.

For sewer or water **emergency service**, contact VRI at **845-677-3839**.

Visit the Town's Website for information throughout the year at **southeast-ny.gov**