Water & Sewer Utility Fund Revenue Sufficiency Analysis

Andrew J. Burnham Vice President, Burton & Associates

City Council ~ Aug. 1, 2016



David W. Porter, P.E. City of Clearwater

Financial Planning & Rate-Setting History

- City's practice Adopt multi-year rate plans for water, irrigation, sewer & reclaimed
 - Current rate plan 4.5% increases/year thru FY 2016
- City conducts annual or bi-annual revenue sufficiency studies for utility enterprise funds
 - Interactive model & decision support process

Summary of FY 2015 Study

- Key issues:
 - Sustainable funding of capital needs
 - Maintaining adequate reserves
 - Strong debt coverage ratios
- Study identified 4.0% annual rate increases to meet system needs starting in FY 2017

Overview of the Analytical Process

INPUTS

- ✓ Historical Financial Data
- ✓ Customer & Demand Forecast
- √ Capital & Operating Plans
- ✓ Policy Considerations
- ✓ Regulatory Requirements

Interactive Modeling Process with FAMS-XL®



OUTPUTS

- → Revenue & Operating Cost Projections | MASTER PLAN
- ightarrow Capital Funding Plan
- → Reserves, Debt Coverage Ratios, KPIs
- → Rate Adjustment Requirements
- → Customer Impacts

FINANCIAL MASTER PLAN



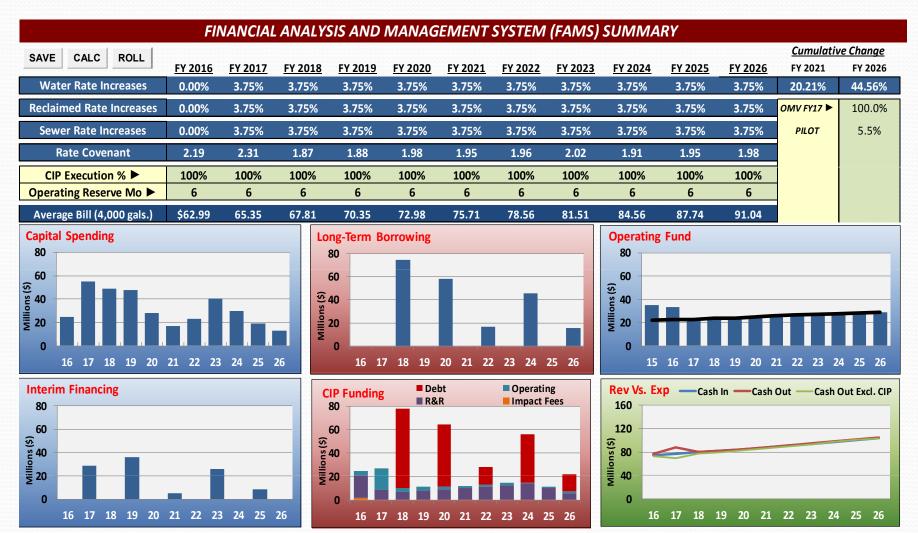
Key Financial Performance Objectives

- Balanced Funding of Infrastructure
 - Target: 50/50 mix of debt vs. cash funding
 - Action: Requires increase in annual cash funding of CIP of \$1M/yr
- Maintaining Sufficient Operating Reserves
 - Target: 6 months of operating & maintenance expenses
 - Indicative of strong systems per rating agencies and industry organizations

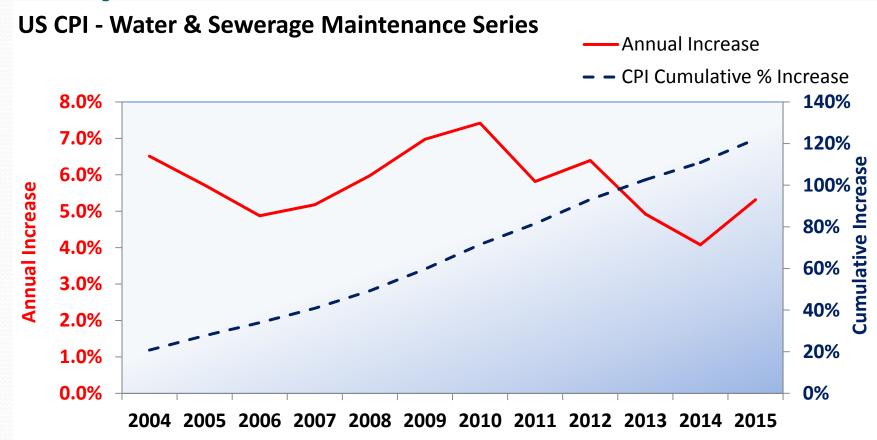
Key Performance Objectives Cont'd

- Maintaining Sufficient Debt Service Coverage
 - What it is: Net income / annual principal & interest expenses
 - Goal: Net revenues 2 x greater than annual debt service (min. target of at least 1.5 x)
 - Indicative of financially strong utility per rating agencies' published criteria

Snapshot of Financial Management Plan



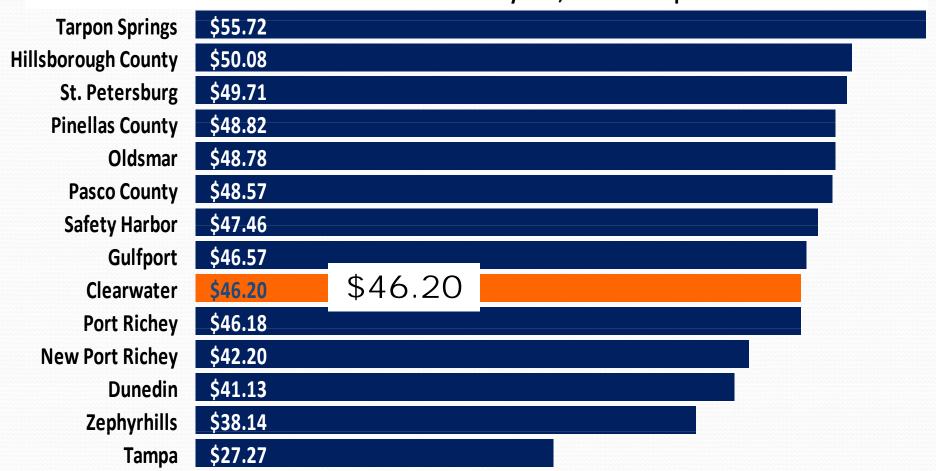
Comparison to National Trends



- Measures the national average change in the cost of water and sewer service to households
- Much more specific and relevant to utilities than overall CPI; 10-year avg. annual increase = 5.7%

FY 2016 Residential Bill Comparison





Projected FY 2017 Bill Comparison

(Based upon current available information; actual rates may vary)





- 1) Safety Harbor is conducting a rate study increases expected but unknown, so none are reflected
- 2) No information available on potential increases for Oldsmar, Gulfport, Tampa & Pasco County

Summary of Results & Recommendations

- Current rates do not generate sufficient revenue for system costs
 - Exhausts fund balance and results in technical default on debt by FY 2021
- 5-yr plan of rate increases (FY17–FY21):
 - 3.75% per year to water, irrigation, sewer
 & reclaimed rates
 - Achieves key financial objectives
 - Comparable to national and local trends

Results & Recommendations, Cont'd

- Continue to perform annual revenue sufficiency studies
 - Modify rate adjustment plan as appropriate (up or down)
- Cost of service to typical residential user is comparable to local communities
 - Presently and into the future

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