

RESOLUTION 2016-221

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, URGING THE NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO OPPOSE THE PROPOSED NEW JERSEY NATURAL GAS (NJNG) RATE INCREASE

WHEREAS, New Jersey Natural Gas Company (“the Company”) serves more than half-million customers in New Jersey, extending across Ocean and Monmouth Counties, as well as parts of Middlesex, Morris and Burlington Counties; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Natural Gas Company wants to raise rates by twenty-four percent (24%), raising customer’s monthly bills by an average of more than \$21; and

WHEREAS, part of this upcharge includes a 118 percent (118%) increase in the utility’s monthly customer service charge, which would rise from \$8.25 a month to \$18; and

WHEREAS, the company’s highly-paid top executives are receiving massive raises. Their 2015 compensation rose 40 percent (40%) over 2014 and has doubled since 2011; and

WHEREAS, a twenty-four percent (24%) increase could force seniors on fixed incomes and families struggling to get by to choose between keeping their lights on, heating their homes, putting food on the table, or buying needed medication; and

WHEREAS, the consequence of such a large increase would also adversely affect small business owners, many of whom are just now beginning to recover from the destruction of Super Storm Sandy; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of this Committee, that the Company’s return of investments should fund the necessary improvements, and that a dedicated fund should be established to finance improvements thus illuminating the need to propose huge rate-hikes for their customers; and

WHEREAS, this proposal by New Jersey Natural Gas must still undergo regulatory hearing before an administrative law judge and be approved by the State Board of Public Utilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of Barnegat hereby urges that prior to the approval of any rate increase strong consideration be given to the devastating effect such an increase would have on senior citizens, struggling families and the business community.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Barnegat Township Committee opposes any such rate-hike.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to the following; New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, the Members of the 9th, 10th, 12th and 30th Legislative Districts, and All Ocean County Municipalities.

CERTIFICATION

I, Michele A. Rivers Municipal Clerk of the Township of Barnegat, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Barnegat Township Committee at their meeting held in the Municipal Complex, 900 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, NJ on the 14th day of June 2016.



Michele A. Rivers, RMC
Municipal Clerk

RECEIVED

APR 28 2016

BARNEGAT TOWNSHIP
CLERK

RESOLUTION

APRIL 20, 2016

WHEREAS, New Jersey Natural Gas Company serves more than a half-million customers in New Jersey, extending across Ocean and Monmouth counties, as well as parts of Middlesex, Morris and Burlington Counties; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey Natural Gas Company wants to raise rates by 24 percent, raising customers' monthly bills by an average of more than \$21; and

WHEREAS, part of this upcharge includes a 118 percent increase in the utility's monthly customer service charge, which would rise from \$8.25 a month to \$18; and

WHEREAS, the company's highly-paid top executives are receiving massive raises. Their 2015 compensation rose 40 percent over 2014 and has doubled since 2011; and

WHEREAS, a 24 percent increase could force seniors on fixed incomes and families struggling to get by to choose between keeping their lights on, heating their homes, putting food on the table, or buying needed medication; and

WHEREAS, the consequence of such a large increase would also adversely affect small business owners, many of whom are just now beginning to recover from the destruction of Superstorm Sandy; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of this Board that the Company's return of investments should fund the improvements necessary and that a dedicated fund should be established to finance improvements thus eliminating the need to propose huge rate-hikes for their customers; and

WHEREAS, this proposal by New Jersey Natural Gas must still undergo regulatory hearings before an administrative law judge and be approved by the State Board of Public Utilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS** of the **COUNTY OF OCEAN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY** hereby passes that prior to the approval of any