



CAPITAL  
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SOLUTIONS

*Monthly Newsletter*

NOVEMBER 2024

*Proudly Serving Communities Throughout the United States!*



## **Why Water and Wastewater Rate Analysis is Crucial to Capital Improvement and Asset Management Planning**

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As the year draws to a close, municipalities are knee-deep in budget preparations for the upcoming fiscal year. One critical area that often gets delayed or overlooked in this process is water and wastewater rate analysis. However, taking time now to evaluate current rates and anticipate future costs is more than just a budgeting best practice—it's a strategic move that directly impacts long-term capital improvement and asset management plans. Integrating water and wastewater rate analysis into budget preparation now ensures municipalities can responsibly manage resources, maintain infrastructure, and avoid unexpected costs down the line.

### **Understanding Rate Analysis and Its Role in Fiscal Responsibility**

A comprehensive water and wastewater rate analysis assesses current rates, evaluates infrastructure needs, and projects future expenses. Rates aren't arbitrary; they're directly linked to the costs required to maintain and upgrade critical infrastructure. This analysis helps municipal leaders understand whether current revenues meet projected needs or if adjustments are necessary to sustainably fund ongoing and future capital improvement projects.

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**Driving  
Connections**

**Building  
Consensus**

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## **Empowering Communities through Transportation Solutions**

The Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS) team has extensive experience in performing community engagement services related to transportation improvement projects, ensuring that the voices of local residents and stakeholders are heard throughout the planning, design, and implementation phases. Our approach is rooted in building trust with the community, fostering transparent communication, and addressing the specific needs of each project by tailoring our outreach strategies to fit the local context.

We specialize in developing comprehensive community engagement plans that combine traditional outreach methods with innovative digital tools. From public meetings, workshops, and charrettes to virtual town halls and social media campaigns, we utilize a wide range of platforms to maximize participation. Our team is skilled at translating technical information into clear, accessible language, helping stakeholders understand the impacts and benefits of proposed transportation improvements.

We have successfully engaged with diverse communities on various transportation projects, from roadway expansions and safety enhancements to multi-modal transit initiatives. CSS's ability to engage marginalized communities and ensure equitable input has been a cornerstone of our work, aligning with our commitment to inclusivity in all public projects. Our most recent transportation improvement projects include:

**Main Street Improvements Project, Natick, MA...**

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## Tailored Strategies for Real- World Challenges

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Municipalities often face complex challenges that require unique solutions. At Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS), we believe that one-size-fits-all approaches simply don't work in the dynamic environments municipalities operate within. Our team—comprised of experts with extensive municipal experience—understands this and delivers tailored strategies to meet each community's specific needs. From public administration and finance to public works and emergency management, we use our experience to craft solutions that maximize success while minimizing risk.

For example, our team has worked alongside cities and towns to streamline processes, improve efficiency, and ensure that limited resources are used to their fullest potential. By drawing on our knowledge of public management, we help municipalities not only meet today's needs but also prepare for future growth and demands.

**Building Stronger Communities through Public Engagement...**

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## **The Backbone of Local Governance: Understanding the Importance of Municipal Policies and Procedures**

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In every community, from small towns to bustling cities, the framework that supports daily life is often taken for granted. Yet, behind the smooth operation of services, the fair treatment of residents, and the efficient allocation of resources lies the critical infrastructure of municipal policies and procedures. These often-overlooked elements are the unsung heroes of local governance, ensuring that our communities are safe, equitable, and thriving.

### **What Are Municipal Policies and Procedures?**

At their core, municipal policies are the rules and guidelines established by local governments to govern various aspects of community life. These policies cover a wide range of areas, including land use, public safety, health regulations, and environmental protection. Procedures, on the other hand, are the step-by-step processes that outline how these policies are to be implemented and enforced.

Together, policies and procedures form the operational backbone of municipal governance. They provide the roadmap for local officials, employees, and residents, ensuring that everyone knows what to expect and how to act in various situations. This structure is essential for maintaining order, delivering services efficiently, and upholding the principles of fairness and transparency.

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## **Need Budget Support?**

*Our team of municipal finance  
experts can assist with your  
budget preparation needs.*

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**Learn About Our  
Services**

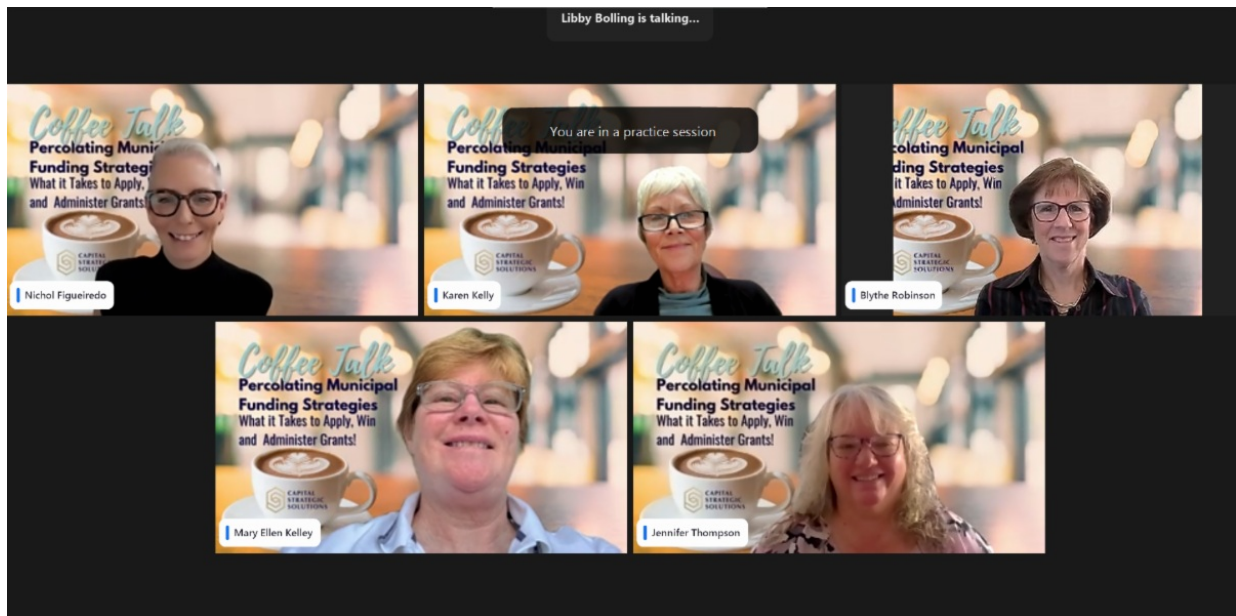
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## **Welcome Aboard: Sara Sara Praguski Walsh**

Capital Strategic Solutions is proud to welcome Sara Praguski Walsh as a Senior Project Manager. Her background in education makes her very skilled in curriculum development, growth planning, and needs analysis. Whether it's working in public schools or at the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services (MA DFS), Sara is responsive, thoughtful, and precise in her planning and program management. We are proud to share her skills with more communities in need of this technical expertise.

Since 2020 Sara has been at the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services (MA DFS), where she is the instructional design and curriculum development specialist. In this role, Sara conducts root cause analysis by exemplar modeling on universally instructional designed materials. Fostering a collaborative group environment, she leads side by side with her team rather than from the top down to improve the quality and quantity of programs.





## Replay Now Available! Percolating Municipal Grant Funding Strategies: What it Takes to Apply, Win, and Administer Grants

The replay of Capital Strategic Solutions' Coffee Talk webinar, "Percolating Municipal Funding Strategies: What it Takes to Apply, Win and Administer Grants," is now available on the company's YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/uTgLN4XgEhA>.

The webinar equips municipalities with the tools and strategies they need to successfully navigate the complex world of grants.

In this informative session, our expert panel covers researching and applying for local, state, and federal grants to managing multi-year, multi-jurisdictional projects. Whether you're new to grant writing or looking to improve your success rate, this webinar provides practical insights into:

- Tips for identifying and applying for grants...

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## **US Forest Service Community Forest Program Now Accepting Grant Applications for FY 2025**

The US Forest Service's Community Forest Program is now accepting grant applications for FY 2025. The program offers a unique opportunity for communities to acquire and conserve forests that provide public access and recreational opportunities, protect vital water supplies and wildlife habitat, serve as demonstration sites for private forest landowners, and provide economic benefits from timber and non-timber products.

The Request for Applications for Fiscal Year 2025 is now available on Grants.gov (Opportunity Number: USDA-FS-2025-CFP). Applications are due to State Foresters or equivalent Tribal officials by January 13, 2025. Applications are encouraged from across the country. If you are interested in applying, contact your CFP Regional Contact. For complete information on the program and application process, see the Final Rule.

[Learn More](#)

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## **New Mexico: Bureau of Reclamation Small Surface Water and Ground Storage Grant**

The Bureau of Reclamation has opened the Small Surface Water and Ground Water Storage Project grant program . This opportunity provides financial assistance for projects designed to increase water supply reliability, operational flexibility, and climate resiliency across the 17 Western States, including New Mexico. This is the third opportunity that opened on September 4, 2024, providing funding for FY25 and FY26. The award ceiling is \$30,000,000.

Eligible projects must:



- Have water storage capacity between 200 acre-feet and 30,000 acre-feet.
- Have a completed feasibility study and have submitted it to the Reclamation for review.
- Increase surface water or groundwater storage OR convey water directly or indirectly to or from surface water or groundwater storage.

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## **Florida Public Library Construction Grant Applications Now Open for FY 2025/2026**

The Florida Department of State, Division of Library and Information Services, is now accepting applications for the FY 2025/2026 Public Library Construction Grant program through November 21, 2024. The program provides state funds to governments to construct public libraries. Funds are awarded on a dollar-for-dollar match of the grant amount to selected governments after evaluation of their application. Successful applicant projects include the construction of new buildings and the acquisition, expansion or remodeling of existing buildings to be used for public library service.

To be eligible to apply for or to receive a Library Construction Grant:

- Applications must be submitted on the DOS Grants System at [dosgrants.com](https://dosgrants.com) on or before the application deadline to receive consideration.
- Applicants for a Library Construction Grant must be a county, municipality, special district or special tax district.
- Applicants requesting a Public Library Construction Grant shall either own or have unconditional use of the library building to be constructed, expanded or remodeled and the site on which it is located.

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## **Town of Holbrook MA Offering Increased Salary Range for Director of Public Works/Superintendent Career Opportunity**

Are you an innovative and motivated professional looking for a position that will help make a difference? Would you like to be part of a team and community that is driven to improve the lives and well-being of its residents? The Town of Holbrook is searching for a Director of Public Works/ Superintendent to lead a team of highly dedicated workers into the future and bring to the town expertise and experience in managing its vital public infrastructure.

As a Senior Manager with the Town, this position will join other dedicated employees and members of the community in their mission to consistently improve services and make a difference in the lives of those that live, work and visit the Town of Holbrook. As an added incentive, the Town is now offering an increased salary range of **\$130,000 to \$140,000** plus per year, depending on experience and qualifications.

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## **Norfolk County MA Seeks Dynamic, Innovative Chief Procurement Officer**

Are you an experienced leader with a passion for procurement and public service? Do you know someone who possesses these qualities and is looking for a new opportunity with a competitive salary range?

Norfolk County, Massachusetts, is looking for a dynamic and innovative Chief Procurement Officer (CPO) to join our team. This is a chance to make a significant impact by driving efficient and effective procurement processes throughout Norfolk County.

Norfolk County offers a competitive salary of **\$70,000-\$90,000** annually and comprehensive benefits package and opportunities for continuous learning and career advancement.

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## Town of Medfield MA Seeking Innovative, Experienced Wastewater Chief Operator

Are you looking to fill a vital role on a collaborative and supportive team? Would you like to work for a town that appreciates and values its public workers?

The Town of Medfield is searching for a Chief Operator for its Wastewater Treatment Plant. As a critical member of the Department of Public Works team, the Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator oversees the town's wastewater treatment operations, ensuring the health and safety of our environment and residents.

In addition to excellent pay range of **\$35.20-\$44.63 per hour** and health benefits, Medfield also offers a stable public retirement plan and competitive leave policies.

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## EPA Announces \$3.6 Billion in Additional Funding for Water Infrastructure

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### Find Us

**Join Us at Connect 351 – formerly the MMA Annual Meeting & Trade Show**  
January 23, 2025 - January 25, 2025  
Boston Convention & Exhibition Center  
415 Summer St., Boston, MA, United States

The event will be held Jan. 23-25, 2025, at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center. This two-and-a-half-day conference offers the largest municipal Trade Show in New England, along with inspiring speakers, educational workshops, member business meetings, important policy discussions and countless networking opportunities. See you there!

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## About Us



Capital Strategic Solutions (CSS) is a Massachusetts-based certified woman-owned, disadvantaged business enterprise comprised of municipal experts. We deliver creative and cost-effective services that maximize success while minimizing risk for our clients. We have hands-on experience that allows us to formulate and implement strategies tailored to the communities we serve. We specialize in public administration and municipal finance, human resources and policy development, emergency management services and public safety, public works and infrastructure operations, public relations and community engagement, project management and oversight, grant writing and administration, and public management and support services.

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