

Minutes of a Public Hearing
AlexRenew Board of Directors
9:30 a.m., Saturday, May 16, 2026

On Saturday, May 16, 2026, the AlexRenew Board of Directors held a public hearing to receive comments on its Proposed FY2027 Operating and Capital Budget and FY2027 Resolution of Intent to Adopt and Change Certain Rates, Fees and Charges in the Edward Semonian Board Room at 1800 Limerick Street, and broadcast via Microsoft Teams, with the following present:

Members: Mr. John Hill, Chair
 Mr. James Beall, Vice Chair
 Ms. Becky Hammer, Secretary-Treasurer
 Mr. Mark Jinks, Member
 Dr. Moussa Wone, Member

Staff: Mr. Justin Carl, General Manager/CEO
 Ms. Caitlin Feehan, Chief Administrative Officer
 Mr. Lake Akinkugbe, Director of Finance
 Mr. Ross Dennis, IT Support
 Ms. Lorna Huff, Executive Assistant to the Board & CEO

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment on AlexRenew's Proposed FY2027 Operating and Capital Budget as well as proposed changes to the rate structure which includes adjustments to the base charge calculation.

2. Review of Process

The Chair reviewed the process for public comment on the FY2027 Operating and Capital Budget and Rate Resolution. Each speaker is limited to three minutes and asked to state their name, address, and any group affiliation. Members of the public are asked to maintain decorum during the comment period.

The Chair recognized Mr. Carl, who thanked the Board and staff for their work in developing the budget and rate structure and commitment to more equitable customer billing.

Mr. Akinkugbe then presented an overview of the proposed FY2027 Operating and Capital Budget. The total budget is \$227.2 million, including \$162.2 million in capital expenses, primarily for the RiverRenew and PhaseForward projects. Approximately \$21 million is allocated to pay outstanding debt for capital projects. Operating expenses total \$44 million, a 7.6% increase from the prior year. Funding for the budget comes from operating revenue and contributions from Fairfax County.

Ms. Feehan discussed AlexRenew's proposed rate structure change. The change involves calculating a customer's base charge based on average monthly water usage versus meter size. This change coincides with a Board approved rate increase of 5.7% adopted in June 2025. The plan will be phased in over five years using 20% of the new calculation per year. Mr. Carl reported that the phasing in of the new base charge over the 5-year period helps to reduce impacts on commercial customers receiving a rate increase. Commercial customers who are in multi-family units will also be eligible for AlexRenew's Lifeline Emergency Assistance Program (LEAP) effective

July 1, 2026.

Virtual meetings, bill inserts, social media posts, and website updates were part of AlexRenew's outreach plan. As part of the FY2027 rate recommendation, the definition of the winter quarter average will change to bills rendered in January, February, and March instead of the current definition which is December, January, and February. This change will reduce the likelihood of outdoor water usage being included in the winter quarter average calculation.

There being no additional discussion; the Chair commended staff on the presentation and opened the public comment period.

3. Public Testimony and Comments

The Chair recognized Mr. Bill Chavin, 527 North Alfred Street. Mr. Chavin thanked the Board for its work and said the proposed change to the base charge was a step in the right direction. He supported having all customers pay the same rate for the first 1,000 gallons but suggested considering a more progressive structure where rates increase after certain thresholds. He noted that heavier water users may be better able to plan for higher costs than customers on fixed budgets.

Mr. Chavin also commented on the proposed 3,500-gallon average for a single-family residence. He noted that this figure may assume characteristics such as outdoor yard usage and may not reflect usage for families living in apartments. He acknowledged the complexity of the issue but suggested that, with improved technology, AlexRenew could eventually consider different usage patterns in different areas, such as neighborhoods with single-family homes versus areas with high-rise residential buildings, to support a more equitable rate structure.

Mr. Carl responded that AlexRenew's initial analysis had included a progressive rate structure for the volumetric charge, but staff decided to defer that approach until the base charge change is implemented. A future phase could examine progressive rates for high water users above a defined threshold. The 3,500-gallon average reflects current average usage for a single-family residential customer and will be reviewed annually, with adjustments every five years to reflect declining water-use trends. He noted that the average could be closer to 3,000 gallons by 2031.

There were no additional comments. The Chair closed the public hearing. He thanked the members of the public for attending and for their discussion and feedback.

The Board will vote on the FY2027 budget and rate structure change on June 16, 2026, meeting at 6:00 p.m.

There being no additional business, the Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wone moved and Ms. Hammer seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

APPROVED:


Secretary-Treasurer