

**SECTION 10.** Except in an emergency as defined in this section, whenever a public hearing is required under sections 1 to 33, inclusive, of special act 77-98, as amended by sections 1 to 11, inclusive, of special act 78-24, sections 2 to 21, inclusive, of public act 02-85, special act 13-20, and special act 17-5, notice of such hearing shall be published by the representative policy board at least twenty days before the date set therefor, in a newspaper or newspapers having a general circulation in each city and town comprising the district. **In an emergency, notice of such hearing shall be authorized by the chairman of the representative policy board and published in such newspapers at least seven days before the date set therefor.** If there is no such newspaper, such notice shall be published in one or more electronic media, including, without limitation, the authority's Internet web site, as are likely to reach a broad segment of persons within the district. Such notice shall set forth the date, time and place of such hearing and shall include a description of the matters to be considered at such hearing. A copy of the notice shall be filed in the office of the clerk of each such city and town and shall be available for inspection by the public. At such hearings, all the users of the water supply system or the wastewater system, owners of property served or to be served and other interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard concerning the matter under consideration. When appropriate, the chairman of the representative policy board may convene more than one hearing on any matter and direct such hearings to be held in suitable locations within the district so as to assure broader participation by the general public in discussion of the matters under consideration, provided in the case of the sale or transfer of real property pursuant to section 18 of special act 77-98, as amended by section 7 of special act 78-24, section 14 of public act 02-85 and section 5 of special act 13-20, a public hearing shall be held in the city or town in which such real property is situated. Any decision of the representative policy board on matters considered at such public hearing shall be in writing and shall be published in a newspaper or newspapers having a general circulation in each city and town comprising the district within thirty days after such decision is made. **For purposes of this section, "emergency" means the determination by the chief executive officer of the authority, the chairman of the authority and the chairman of the representative policy board or their respective designees that either (i) delay in the award of a contract or the expenditure of capital funds may threaten the public's safety, or place property at risk, (ii) immediate action is necessary to respond to and/or recover from, a natural disaster or hostile act, or (iii) immediate action is necessary to respond to an event threatening or compromising the integrity of the authority's information systems and associated infrastructure.**