



OFFICE OF  
THE BOARD OF

# Water & Sewer Commissioners

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July 1, 2022

## SUMMARY OF RECENT IMPROVEMENTS AND PROJECTS UNDERWAY SOMERSET WATER AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITIES

The Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners is taking this opportunity to inform our customers of recent improvements to our facilities which include the Somerset Reservoir and Water Treatment Plant on County Street, the town-wide water distribution piping system, the Wastewater Treatment Plant on Walker Street, and the town-wide wastewater collection piping system.

### WATER:

- 1. Upgrade of the 20" water main that conveys 100% of the treated water from the plant to the distribution system.** Failure of this water main would disrupt water service to the entire Town and a portion of Dighton. Improvements include replacement of deteriorated pipe couplings and the addition of a new 20" gate valve to enhance distribution system operation.
- 2. Installation of twelve (12) new state-of-the-art fire hydrants.** The new hydrants are Mueller brand, manufactured in Tennessee, USA, which is one of the top makers of water supply system equipment. These new hydrants are known as "dry barrel type" meaning they are suitable for use in cold weather areas. They also feature the desirable 5.25-inch valve size to flow more water. The new hydrant locations are as follows:
  - Corner of Elm and North streets
  - 1263 Brayton Point Road
  - 1931 GAR Highway
  - 63 Parsons Lane
  - 78 Fatima Drive
  - 122 Bayview Avenue
  - 60 Lawton Street
  - 177 Grove Avenue
  - 224 Palmer Street
  - 28 Vermont Street
  - 365 Washington Street
  - 938 Lees River Avenue
- 3. Design for Phase I Reservoir Safety Improvements is nearing completion.** The Town has been awarded a grant for construction which is planned for later this year or early Spring of 2023.
- 4. Our solar field, located at the Water Treatment Plant, is fully operational.** It has a maximum operating capacity of 520 kW and has been furnishing approximately 33% of the plant's electricity needs.
- 5. Design and preparation of construction documents for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) reduction project is underway.** The Town has applied for \$4M in funding for this project. Please see the recent 6-13-2022 Public Notice mailed to all customers in their July bill for a further explanation of this project.

## **WATER POLLUTION CONTROL:**

1. **Two clarifiers have been rebuilt and repairs have begun on a third clarifier.** All four of the clarifiers were damaged last Fall as a result of a subcontractor's error while working at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is hoped that all the clarifiers will be rebuilt and fully operational by this Fall. The cost for this work is being funded from an insurance settlement.
2. **The Route 6 Pumping Station Improvements and Sewer and Water Rehabilitation Project has been completed.** This project included the rebuilding of the Route 6 sewage pumping station, relining of sewer pipes to reduce infiltration, and water main upgrades. This major project for the Town was partially funded by grants.
3. **A value engineering study to plan for future Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades is underway.** The purpose of this study is to ensure that the eventual plant upgrades will be made as cost effectively as possible.
4. **Design and preparation of contract documents to replace/upgrade five key wastewater pumping stations is underway.** This project will improve station reliability and efficiency. The Town is seeking federal funding for this project.
5. **Sludge handling and treatment chemical storage projects are in the planning stages.** These projects will improve plant operations, safety, and efficiency.

To the maximum extent possible, the Board is seeking grants, low-cost loans, etc. to fund these projects. During FY23, more projects are planned to improve our facilities and make them capable of meeting all regulatory standards. In addition to new projects, we are purchasing new equipment to replace old equipment that has exceeded its useful life and/or to provide a safer, more efficient, working environment for our staff. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

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