



OFFICE OF
THE BOARD OF

Water & Sewer Commissioners

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IMPORTANT WATER AND SEWER PROJECTS NOW IN DESIGN PHASE

At the special Town meeting in December, the Town approved two Articles authorizing the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners to use funds available from its reserve account for the design of water and sewer projects. Previously, the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners made a presentation in an open session meeting of the Board of Selectman. The presentation included a description of the proposed projects and timelines for implementation. The Board of Selectman was supportive of the requested articles. The approved articles are for the design phase only, which encompasses project planning and design, preparation of construction drawings and specifications, preparation of bidding documents, generation of probable construction costs, and assistance with the procurement of available Federal and State funding for construction. It is important to note that projects must be “shovel ready”, which necessitates the availability of fully designed projects, when applying for funding.

Shortly after the approval of the two articles, contracts were signed with our water and sewer engineering consultants to begin the design phase for the first group of projects. It is anticipated that more design phase contracts will be awarded later this month. Projects to be included under the approved articles for design funding are the following:

1. Improvements to water treatment, storage, and distribution systems to mitigate water turbidity and taste and odor complaints, and upgrades to ensure consistent compliance with mandated water quality standards (i.e. reduction of TTHM levels)
2. Upgrades to the water treatment plant to improve operations and maintenance.
3. Phase II design for a new reservoir spillway and channel system to carry away excess water resulting from major storm events. Phase I design is presently underway.
4. Value engineering for the wastewater treatment plant to determine cost effective ways to upgrade and modernize that facility to ensure that it will meet existing and future water quality standards.
5. Design for replacement of five (5) sewage pumping stations. The Town has seventeen (17) stations in total.
6. Wastewater treatment plant improvements for disposal of liquid sludge.
7. Additional contracts for inflow and infiltration elimination to reduce flows to the wastewater treatment plant.

More projects may be added to this list subject to availability of article funding. The approach that the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners is taking will allow the Town to avail itself of as much Federal and State funding as possible, which should reduce the amount of money the Town will have to raise from other sources in the near future. The Board is planning to have projects ready for bidding by late Spring of this year. It should be noted that we will be applying for Federal and State funding for construction as the design progresses. Unfortunately, the amount of funding available and time frame for receipt is beyond our control. However, the Board’s approach is to be proactive and have shovel ready projects ready to go when construction money is available.

Paul A. Sylvia, P.E.
Superintendent of Water & Sewer