

Town of Milton

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TOWN MANAGER REPORT MAY 2012

Referendum Survey Results

Responses to the Water System Improvements referendum survey were representative of the voting. Those who voted against the proposed borrowing outnumbered those who voted for it by a ratio that was approximately 2:1. Seventy surveys received were self-identified as coming from those who voted “against” and thirty-six were from those who voted “for”.

Although there were only twelve questions, there were forty-four variables involved. The first review of the results focused upon those that voted against the proposed borrowing. Knowledge about the water system, the ways in which people found their information and the reason or motivation behind their vote was measured by the number and type of responses.

The following information refers to respondents that voted “against”, only:

Knowledge

- 23% believe that the Town of Milton has two water treatment plants – or one plant and an emergency back-up plant. *The town has only one plant with a back-up generator for use when electrical service has been interrupted. A mechanical failure that takes more than six hours to repair could cause your water to be “out of service” until the repair is completed.*
- 23% believe that the Town of Milton has either one or three water towers for storage. *There are two water towers in the Town of Milton.*
- 37% did not know that water in the towers produce the pressure that causes it to flow from the faucet in your home.

Information Sources

- 56% of those that voted against the proposed borrowing did not attend any of the public meetings.
- The most often cited source of information was the newspaper and a mailing from Town Hall.

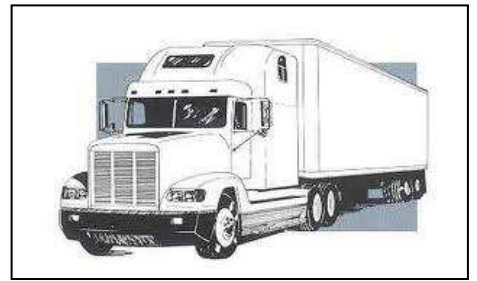
Reason or Motivation

- 74% cited the un-accounted differences between pumped and billed water as a reason that they voted against the referendum.
- 70% indicated that they thought the improvements would benefit developers more than themselves, to one degree or another.
- 64% indicated a lack of confidence in the town leadership.

The lack of confidence and the un-accounted difference in water pumped versus billed had a high correlation. Addressing the issue of “missing” water, first, would improve the perception of the process leading to any proposed borrowing and have a corresponding positive effect on the view of leadership.

Trucks Soon To Be a Memory

It's been a slow process. But signs are going up and our Police Officers have a copy of the Ordinance and will be warning drivers over the next month. Not long from now, the noise and damage to curbs will be just a memory.



Trucking gets products from our fields and factories to the stores that we depend upon for food and consumer goods. So, some trucks will still need to pass through town to get to schools and stores. The “through traffic” should come to end very soon, though.

A Bright Future for Shipbuilders Village

The installation of street lights at the end of Shipbuilders Boulevard has been completed. The lights should increase traffic and pedestrian safety here, and in the immediate vicinity.

The developer of this community has finally ceded control to the bank, too. This means that a dedication of the remaining streets to public use is much closer to reality. This will be followed by much-needed pavement improvements.

Looking Good in Milton...

Just about everybody has been working hard to keep Milton attractive as we move from Spring into Summer. Most of the Public Works staff spends two days a week cutting grass. With help from Work Release crews, new mulch has been applied around trees and flower beds in the park. Streets have been swept, too.

This work has been complimented by the Milton Garden Club and even the University of Delaware – who cleaned-up the rain gardens around the Milton Public Library.

Most homeowners have shown their Milton pride, as well. Cutting grass before it reaches 10” in height and trimming bushes back from the sidewalk is a “must”. More than a few grass cutting notices were mailed in May. Those who receive a notice have ten days to correct it – or else the town will remedy the problem at a considerable expense to the homeowner. Only one notice will be sent during the season. So, repeat violations of the Municipal Code regarding property maintenance and nuisances will result in swift action. Regular maintenance of lawns and shrubs is necessary to the health and welfare, in addition to the aesthetics, of our community.

Month of the Meter



In May thirty-three letters were sent to homes, businesses and churches that have out-of-date or non-existent water meters. Another thirty letters will be mailed early in June. A number of installations have already occurred and June 2012 will surely be remembered as “the month of the meter”.

Old meters are less accurate and often inaccessible. A new meter will not cost the customer/homeowner anything. The new meter will make sure that everyone is being treated equally when it comes to billing for water usage.

The letters are being sent via Certified Mail. There is a “Permission to Enter” form enclosed. It is essential that the forms be returned as soon as possible. The Town of Milton Water Ordinance empowers Public Works to install a meter pit on your service line. A lack of cooperation regarding entry onto property will result in the installation of a meter pit. This unnecessary expense would then be billed to that home or business utility account. Cooperating customers will *not* be billed for the meter upgrade, though.