

Town of Milton

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WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

May 6, 2013

The Water Committee met on April 30, 2013. Minutes are not yet available. This report has been prepared so that Council is better prepared to take action – as the high consumption season approaches.

Check Valves Working & Conservation Goal Met

Valves that prevent the flow of water back into our wells have been installed. More accurate meters have also been installed at this point of production. The conclusion of this project did not occur until the first days of April. And the weather this April was cooler than it was last April.

Nonetheless, there were 1,515,801 *less* gallons of water *recorded as* pumped in April 2013 than there was in April 2012. The amount of water pumped in April also was less than the State of Delaware conservation goal of an average of 100 gallons, per person per day, for all types of use. At 96 gallons per person, per day, the Town of Milton has reached a milestone in its conservation plan!

Additional monitoring of both well production and metered use (consumption) activities will continue through 2013. The data collected so far reveals a much closer relationship between these two values and demonstrates a much better accounting for water use.

Monthly reading of residential and business meters is proving to be quite difficult. Many of the meter pits become filled with rain or ground water and must be pumped-put before the meter signal can be transmitted properly. Quarterly reading of meters will be done in July and October.

Proposed Capital Improvements

The Water Committee proposes that the Town Council amend its budget for the Proprietary Fund. This fund is used exclusively for revenue and expenditures for our town-owned enterprises that provide water and trash services. Reserves in the accounts attached to this fund can be used for capital improvements.

It is the recommendation of the Water Committee that the Council authorize the expenditure of no less than \$17,000 for the development of drawings and a design for the Shipbuilders Tower foundation in the 2013 fiscal year. The rehabilitation of the foundation is estimated to be approximately \$73,000 (construction, construction management and inspection). This sum could be authorized as part of the 2014 budget process.

Proposed Engineering Work

The committee also discussed the need to continue work that would make the town more prepared for both emergencies and long-term improvements. Among the subjects discussed was the use of hydrant test data (to be gathered in May) to develop a better model of the water system. Using budgeted Water Engineering expenses for the design of a new well in a different location was also discussed.

Water Referendum expenses have been recorded apart from the Water Engineering budget line. The preservation of funds allocated for Water Engineering expenditures is important to the committee.