

REPORT OF THE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS

The Monson Water and Sewer Department experienced major personnel changes in 2002. On September 15, 2002 Marshall Harris resigned as Superintendent of the Department after 24 years of dedicated service to become Monson's new Fire Chief. We will surely miss his daily presence at the Department and the knowledge and expertise that we constantly relied on and always appreciated. Also, as of December 31, 2002 the Commission will be without the services of Chairman Ron Klisiewicz. After 7 years of service on the Board, Ron decided to tender his resignation in order to better focus his attention on his home business. We wish both these men the best of luck in all their future endeavors and commend them for their unflappable professionalism and unfailing commitment to excellence that was their signature during their tenures with the Water and Sewer Department.

During calendar year 2002 we experienced a major setback regarding one of our water sources. When the Bunyan Rd. Well rehabilitation project was completed in the fall of 2001 the well's output had increased by 80%, however the improvement was short-lived as the output dropped from 470 gpm after cleaning to 370 gpm by March 2002. This severe decline in production was caused by a massive clogging of the well screen and its surrounding gravel pack by a specific species of iron reducing bacteria. This bacteria, while not harmful to drink, does cause sporadic, aesthetic "red water" occurrences in the distribution system. It was at this time the decision was made to discontinue pumping this well in the best interests of the customers of the Water Department. The loss of this well has definitely handicapped our water production capability, but rest assured that the Commission and the staff of the Water and Sewer Department are working constantly to replace this source and will continue to look for alternative procedures which might allow us to use the Bunyan Rd. well field again.

Additions and improvements to our water and sewer systems were abundant during 2002 and they severely challenged our manpower with their inherent inspection and or participation requirements. Bradway Construction of Ludlow began work on the McCray Subdivision project this year and by November all underground appurtenances were installed. This project was highly beneficial to the water system as it connected and looped Carpenter Rd., State St. and Stewart Ave. with 2600 ft. of 8" cement lined ductile iron pipe and added three additional fire hydrants in the process. During construction the Water Dept. in cooperation with Bradway Construction extended the water main on Cushman St. from the intersection of Pease Ave. up Carpenter Rd. approximately 175ft. to meet the new main coming from the subdivision. We also updated / replaced the 2" connections feeding the remainder of Carpenter Rd. and Wayne Rd. off of Stewart Ave. Water services to homes abutting the project on Stewart Ave. and State St. were updated and a hydrant on Stewart Ave. was also replaced. When this project is completed, it will add 10 new water and sewer services to our customer base.

The Woodridge Condominium expansion began in 2002 and will continue into 2003. Water and sewer piping were installed, including one new fire hydrant, to allow for the eventual three building expansion. Building #2 was completed which added 6 new water and sewer services to our system.

Woloshchuk Enterprises of Monson began the Beebe Rd. sewer extension in September of 2002 on behalf of the Sunsetview Campground. This project is being funded entirely by the campground and upon completion will include the installation of 1650ft. of 8" PVC sewer pipe and 7 new manholes on Beebe Rd. The extension begins at the intersection of Crest Rd. and continues up Beebe to a point before the intersection of Town Farm Rd. where it branches off of Town property. Before construction began the Water Department replaced a ¾" copper line that supplied 3 homes on Beebe Rd. with 400ft. of new 2" 200 psi plastic water line to put an end to water pressure problems that have been plaguing those customers. In the spring of 2003 we plan to install an additional 150ft. of 2" line to complete our upgrade of this road.

Throughout the Town we repaired 7 water service leaks and 3 main breaks during calendar year 2002. We also updated / replaced 8 existing services and added 9 new services to the system. A total of 196,491,400 gallons of potable water were pumped from the town wells at an average rate of 538,332 gallons per day. Our peak day was August 13, 2002 when we pumped 1,168,900 gallons. Nine new customers were added to the sewer system in 2002 and we pumped a total of 91,717,000 gallons of wastewater to the Palmer Water Pollution Control Facility for treatment and disposal. We recorded 47.98" of precipitation at our Palmer Road Station and responded to 153 Dig-Safe requests throughout our area of responsibility.

The Commission and staff of the Water and Sewer Department would like to thank the Board of Selectmen and all Town Departments and officials for their extraordinary support this year. A special thanks goes to the Park and Recreation Department for their assistance throughout the year. We are especially grateful to the Highway Department without whom our job would be that much more difficult. In 2002 we experienced an unprecedented need for the Highway Departments heavy equipment. This need was constantly met with cooperation and assistance from Highway Surveyor John Morrell who managed to always fit us into his busy work schedule. We amassed 137 hours of backhoe time and 108 hours of truck time throughout the year at rates far below any outside contractor allowing our Department to operate more efficiently. The Water and Sewer Department is very appreciative and proud to have such good working relationships with these as well as other Town Departments. In times of need it is very reassuring that such cooperation and support between Town Departments exists.

We wish to thank the water and sewer customers for their patience and support as we strive to improve and upgrade the water and sewer systems to provide you the best service possible while still keeping rates below the state average.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen C. Lobik, Chairman, Jack P. Gustafson, Vice Chairman, Marshall L. Harris, Clerk
Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners