



## *Town of Monson, Water & Sewer Department*

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### **REPORT OF THE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

The Monson Water and Sewer Department continued to experience major personnel changes in 2003. On January 23, 2003 we promoted Craig Jalbert from Assistant Superintendent to the Superintendent position at the Department. Tom Murphy was promoted to Assistant Superintendent and David Martin was hired to fill the vacant Maintenance Man position. We feel very fortunate to have all three of these men on our staff and have the utmost confidence in their abilities. Also, we welcome new Board member Douglas North to the Commission. He replaced Commissioner Steven Lobik who chose not to run for re-election after two distinguished terms of service and who will surely be missed.

During calendar year 2003 we investigated all available options to regain the capacity we lost with the closing of the Bunyan Rd. well and have formulated the following action plan. We have requested permission from MassDEP to install a replacement well approximately 175 feet away from the existing Bunyan Rd. well. This project would also include all necessary controls and piping modifications to incorporate the new well into our system. We then plan to add a replacement well to the Palmer Rd. well field to augment the existing well's diminished capacity. Together, these two replacement wells will bring our pumping capacity back into compliance with MassDEP requirements.

Additions and improvements to our water and sewer systems were abundant during 2003 and they severely challenged our manpower with their inherent inspection and or participation requirements. Magill & Sons Construction Co. of Monson began work on the Longview Terrace Subdivision project this year and by the end of September all underground piping was installed. This project was highly beneficial to the water system as it connected and looped Longview Dr. and Homer Dr. with 1000 ft. of 8" cement lined ductile iron pipe and added two additional fire hydrants in the process. During construction, the Water Dept. in cooperation with Magill & Sons Construction and OJS Landscape Excavation extended the water main on Homer Dr. starting at house #12 and proceeded North on Homer Dr. for approximately 400 feet to meet the new main coming from the subdivision. Water services to homes abutting the project on Homer Dr. were replaced to the property line. When building on this subdivision is completed, it will add 6 new water and sewer services to our customer base.

The Woodridge Condominium expansion was completed in 2003. Buildings #3 and #4 were finished which added 12 new water and sewer services to our system.

In cooperation with Woloshchuk Enterprises of Monson, we completed the water service upgrade to the homes we supply on Beebe Rd. The Water Department replaced the last of the ¾" copper line that supplied 3 homes on that road by installing 150 additional feet of new 2" 200

psi plastic water line to put an end to water pressure problems that have been plaguing those customers.

In 2003 the Town of Monson was extremely fortunate to receive funding through a Community Development Block Grant for infrastructure improvements on Green Street, Lincoln Street, Squier Avenue and Bridge Street. The project included the installation of approximately 2,700 linear feet of 8" cement lined ductile iron water main on Lincoln Street, Green Street, Squier Avenue and Bridge Street. A total of 38 house services were updated from the new water main to the property line and 5 new fire hydrants were installed. We realize this project was a large inconvenience to the residents in the project area and we want to thank you for your unlimited patience and understanding. It was an excellent opportunity and highly beneficial to our water system to have the over 100 year old water mains replaced at no cost to our customers.

Throughout the Town we repaired 7 water service leaks and 5 main breaks during calendar year 2003. We also updated / replaced 14 water services from the main to the curb stop and replaced 19 services from the curb stop to the house. A total of 14 new services were added to the system. A total of 181,497,750 gallons of potable water were pumped from the town wells at an average rate of 497,254 gallons per day. Our peak day was July 3, 2003 when we pumped 965,600 gallons. At our sewer lift station in 2003, the pump rebuild and comminutor refurbishment projects were successfully completed. Sixteen new customers were added to the sewer system and we pumped a total of 124,054,000 gallons of wastewater to the Palmer Water Pollution Control Facility for treatment and disposal. We recorded 50.75" of precipitation at our Palmer Road Station and responded to 290 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 2003 we experienced another busy year and again we relied heavily on the use of 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 105 hours of backhoe time and 77 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.

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,

Marshall L. Harris, Chairman, Jack P. Gustafson, Vice Chairman, Douglas R. North, Clerk  
Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners