

UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Water Services:

The Citizens of North Hampton are served by either their own drilled well or by the Hampton Water Works, a private company owned by American Water Works, one of the largest water companies in the United States. HWWC is regulated as a public utility by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

The businesses and residences served by HWWC are all located on the east side of Interstate 95, and number 2649; about 66% of the town's population of 4,000. Groundwater is the sole source of water distributed by Hampton Water Works. Currently, there are eleven wells in service with three new wells about to be brought on line during 1999. One well is located in Stratham, one in Rye, five in North Hampton, and the other eight are located in the Town of Hampton.

On April 17, 1995, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) imposed a moratorium that restricted significant expansion of water services by HWWC due to it's failure to meet the supply criteria established by the DES. That order by the DES states: "Design standards state that well capacity must exceed the maximum day demand and equal or exceed the average day demand with the largest well of service". Since then, three new developments have been built with the supply pipes in place, but not in use, with private wells drilled for each home. With the completion of Stratham well No. 16, and North Hampton wells Nos. 17, 18, and 19, Hampton Water Works will add an estimated .98 million gallons per day (mgd) to the current sustained yield of the system and 1.15 mgd to the system's short term capacity. The addition of these new sources of supply increases HWWC's total sustained yield to 5.39 mgd and its total short term yield to 6.40 mgd. These totals mean that HWWC is now capable of meeting the two requirements set out by the moratorium. Accordingly, they have applied for a lifting of the NHDES order on November 24, 1998.

HWWC is currently in the process of preparing a 15 year projection of capital improvements, with completion expected in 1999. They have also updated their Source of Supply Adequacy Report which suggests that the supply should meet demand through 2005. An additional source of supply is sought to be on line prior to 2005. Some of the projects that will likely be called for in the Comprehensive Planning Study will be:

1. The addition of an elevated storage tank off of North Road in North Hampton;
2. Establishing interconnections between Seabrook, Exeter, Rye, HWWC, and Portsmouth for emergency flow intertown;

3. Resource protection/monitoring;
4. Conservation programs.

In North Hampton, the new wells Nos. 17, 18 & 19 are about to come on line only after protracted negotiations with the town as required by the PUC. At issue was the fear by nearby well owners that they would lose their water supply when the wells began pumping. The result is a Well Owners Response Plan that has been agreed to by both the HWWC and the Town of North Hampton, and is now awaiting approval by the PUC. In the Plan, 43 well owners are addressed, and are being monitored by the HWWC. The Plan also has a component that requires monitoring of the water level of the Winnicut River, which is very near wells Nos. 16, 17 18, & 19.

The citizens of North Hampton voted in the spring of 1998, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to spend a maximum of \$75,000 to evaluate the feasibility of purchasing the HWWC. The Board has two years to accomplish this directive. In 1999, the Selectmen will perform a study to determine the value of the system. The results of this information will be used to determine the direction of the ensuing research and their recommendations to the citizens. The concerns of the Town center around the use and control of the aquifers located within the Town of North Hampton. The Water Resource Management and Protection Chapter of this Master Plan addresses these issues clearly. It should be remembered that the State of New Hampshire maintains ownership of all subsurface water rights, and that fact further complicates the above noted issues. We must develop patterns of sustainable growth while still protecting the quality and availability of our drinking water.

Natural Gas:

Natural gas service is provided to North Hampton by Northern Utilities, a public utility regulated by the NH PUC. A 4 inch low pressure line extends along Lafayette Road from Hampton to Atlantic Avenue, turning east for a short distance to the Pantry store. When the Atlantic Avenue bridge over the Railroad was rebuilt in 1995, Northern Utilities installed piping that was capable of serving the school. That option was not used by the school during their remodeling, but the pipe remains. Also, a 2 inch line serves a small area along Ocean Boulevard (Route 1A). Currently, Northern Utilities has no plans for expansion of service in North Hampton.

Electrical Service:

Public Service of New Hampshire provides the electrical distribution and service to all of North Hampton. PSNH has a distribution substation, three 34.5 KV transmission lines and one 345 KV transmission line located along Rt. 95. No expansion of service is planned, other than that required for residential growth. The State of New Hampshire is attempting to de-regulate the electric utilities, and since the outcome is unclear and not settled, it's effect on the citizens remains to be seen.

Septic Systems and Municipal Sewer:

At present there is no central sewer system in North Hampton; 100% of the Town utilizes private septic systems. The Selectmen, in an effort to increase the tax base, are researching the possibility of making the Route 1 area more attractive to commercial development by extending the Hampton sewer line. This infrastructure upgrade is proposed to be paid for and contained within a Tax Increment Financing District, overlaid on the IBR zone. Preliminary discussions with the Selectmen of Hampton took place July of 1998, with a mixed response. There is strong sentiment by the citizens to continue the exclusive use of septic systems. The above mentioned TIF District concept is in the very early stages of discussion. The Town of Rye contracted with the Town of Hampton in 1994 to extend a sewer line to approximately 100 homes along Route 1A, which were adding sewage to the marsh and ocean, and were under an NHDES order to remedy the failures. This line passes through the Town of North Hampton along Route 1A, with no homes or businesses tied into it.

Solid Waste:

The Town of North Hampton is one of eleven towns that collectively formed the Southeast Regional Refuse Disposal District (SRRDD). This implementation district, allowed under NHRSA §53-B, assisted members towns with establishing recycling programs, and negotiated a contract with Turnkey Landfill to receive the solid waste of member towns. The '53-B' office oversees the invoicing and payment for it's member towns. They are also charged with addressing the septage issue of each town, although to date they have not become involved.

The Recycling Center of North Hampton is located off of Cherry Road, and at this time it is open two days per week, year round. The Town also accepts brush and grass clippings at the same site, with a permit required, and is open during the summer months. The solid waste of each residence and business is picked up by a private hauler and taken to Turnkey for disposal. The hauling fee is paid by each

owner, with the town paying the tipping fee at Turnkey. This tipping fee was \$48.99/ton in 1997/98, rising to \$49.72/ton in 1999/2000. The total tonnage taken to Turnkey in '97/98 was 1322.65 tons. The recycling center processed and sold 268.34 tons. Since there may be income derived from recycling, the more recycling tonnage generated by our citizens, the greater the reduction in the Turnkey tipping fees. This cost avoidance amounted to \$13,150; the income from selling recyclable items was \$6,684. Together, that reduced the cost of operating the recycling center to \$7,000. At present, recycling is voluntary, and at 16%, an improved recycling effort must be made to meet the Federal and State goal of 40% by the year 2000. The issue of solid waste disposal is a large one. Turnkey is filling at a faster rate than projected, and there are no other landfills in the area. The options for the Town are many and varied, including the construction of a transfer station and mandatory recycling. If a transfer station is desired, a site must be chosen. Consideration has been given to the idea of building a transfer station on a portion of the brush dump land adjacent to the recycling center. There is the desire to construct a new Highway Department facility, and the same Cherry Road site is a possibility. A second site possible is the old town dump located on South Road near the NHDOT barns. The State of NH owns this site at present, and it is unknown at this time if it is available. If it is, at 5 acres, it could accommodate both a new town Highway facility and a transfer station.

Telephone and Telecommunications:

Bell Atlantic owns half of the poles on which the telephone service is delivered, PSNH owning the other half. Technology is rapidly changing the manner in which we communicate. Voice and data transmission can now be accomplished over land wires, fiber optic cable, and wireless systems. Media One began as a cable TV provider, and it now positioning itself to offer internet access service in North Hampton. At present, one wireless communication tower is located along Rt. 95, with two companies co-locating on it. A second tower is proposed, to be located at a site yet to be determined. The issue of tower appearance and location is addressed by Town regulations.

The Town is actively researching the possibility of networking all of its public facilities via a LAN or WAN configuration. By doing so, the Town will centralize all network administrative functions, thereby reducing long term operating and maintenance costs. Additionally, the Town of North Hampton may create a world wide web site which would eventually provide 24 hr. service to residents by offering e-mail to elected officials, account inquiries, building permit information, and other public records information on line.

1. Monitor the effect of the three new wells in North Hampton and one in Stratham on the wells of those residents identified in the Well Owners Response Plan, as well as on the water level of the Winnicutt River;
2. Reduce the percentage of impervious surfaces permitted on commercial properties in an effort to reduce the potential of surface water contamination;
3. Encourage bio-engineered solutions to water drainage design to increase the cleaning function of such facilities;
4. Search for new methods and techniques to protect the quality and quantity of our water supplies;
5. Require the pumping and inspection of the septic system of each property upon sale.
6. Begin to plan for the construction of a new Public Works facility.
7. Plan to construct a transfer station.
8. Implement mandatory recycling.

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