



HICKSVILLE WATER DISTRICT WATER~GRAM

Bonding for Capital Projects

After a careful and comprehensive analysis, the Hicksville Water District's Board of Commissioners has determined that a capital bonding program is needed to significantly protect its potable water supply for the next two decades.

"The water district has a public health responsibility to meet and must do everything necessary to supply drinking water that meets government standards," said Hicksville Water District Chairman and Commissioner Richard Humann. "The residents of Hicksville have every right to demand and expect that the board fulfills its fundamental responsibility to protect public health."

Through the proposed capital program, highlighted in the district's Master Plan and presented in February at its 5th Annual Community Forum, the utility is seeking \$18.3 million in municipal bonds to address water supply needs as well as quality issues, both now and in the immediate future.

"The bond program is an opportunity for us to replace aging infrastructure and improve the quality of Hicksville's potable water, which is a vital natural resource. Bonding for these projects enables us to be as proactive as possible when it comes to protecting Hicksville's water supply," commented Humann.

As it currently stands, the Hicksville Water District is seeking to bond for the following:

- Plant 1: Nitrate treatment system
- Plant 3: Reactivation with treatment for nitrates and organics
- Plant 5: Volatile organic compounds (VOC) treatment
- Plant 6: Nitrate treatment system
- Plant 11: Long-term air-stripping treatment

Additionally, the district has allocated \$4.4 million from its existing capital reserve fund to help support these projects as well as short-term granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment at

Plant 11 and a clearwell and nitrate treatment system at Plant 8.

As a utility that protects public health, the Hicksville Water District has the ability to bond under the guidelines of the Nassau County Civil Divisions Act. Although it is not required to put the projects up to public referendum, it must first obtain approval from the Oyster Bay and Hempstead Town Boards before the utility can move forward with its plans.

"The town boards have the final say when it comes to the district's finances. They must review Hicksville Water's suggestions and determine both the necessity of the projects and whether or not bonding is the proper method of financing," said Chairman Humann.

If approved, it is anticipated that

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Hicksville Water District officials presented the utility's 5th Annual Community Forum at the Hicksville Public Library this past February.



Superintendent Bill Schuckmann

Upgrades to Ground Storage Tank Vents

Work was recently completed to upgrade the vents of the district's ground-level storage tanks at Plant 5 on Stewart Avenue, Plant 8 on Dean Street and Plant 9 on Alicia Street. Each stores about 2 million gallons of water. The work to the vents, which are in place mainly to help prevent freezing, is part of the district's routine maintenance schedule and necessary to meet new Nassau County Health Department regulations.

Maintenance for Air-Strippers

In preparation for the spring and summer months, when the demand for water typically increases, the district recently performed preventive maintenance procedures at its five air-stripping treatment facilities.

Backflow Reminder

Those with underground sprinkler systems are reminded that installation and annual inspection of double-check valves (know as backflow prevention devices) are required by the New York State Department of Health. The equipment will prevent

potentially contaminated water from being drawn backward into the public water in the event of a sudden drop in water pressure. For example, without the valve, a water main break or the use of a nearby hydrant can cause fertilizers and other such dangerous chemicals to enter the system.

All commercial properties are required to have RPZ valves in place, which are to be tested, and paperwork submitted to the district within the first quarter of every year. Residential property owners with underground sprinklers are required to submit annual inspection papers to the district by June 1.

Leak Detection Program

In the spirit of conserving both water and energy, the district is continuing with its leak detection program to identify and address leaks that may be present along its distribution system.

Dialysis Notification

As part of its Emergency Response Plan, the district is requesting contact information for customers who are receiving dialysis treatment. If you or someone you know is under such care, please contact the district with two contact names, along with street addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

Use Lawn Chemicals Properly

With spring upon us, many homeowners are hard at work sprucing up their lawns and gardens, without realizing the impact the improper use of chemicals can have on the drinking water supply. Since a picture-perfect yard requires more than just a green thumb, Hicksville Water District Commissioner Nick Brigandi is reminding residents to use lawn chemicals and fertilizers carefully, for the protection of the environment, particularly the source of our tap water, which is situated below the earth's surface.

"It is common for individuals to think that groundwater contamination is caused solely by commercial and industrial activity, without realizing that the improper use of household gardening products such as pesticides and lawn fertilizers can be hazardous to the environment," said Commissioner Brigandi. "By following some simple common sense guidelines, homeowners can still enjoy plush lawns and gardens, while playing a major role in protecting the groundwater supply for future generations."

When applying pesticides and fertilizers, take extra

care to use the products as directed on the manufacturer's label, especially in terms of the recommended amount. Once the job is complete, homeowners should be sure to store all items in the original, leak proof containers and place them in a well-ventilated, cool, dry location. In the event a product spills or leaks, it is imperative that it be contained, cleaned or neutralized and properly disposed of as soon as possible.

One of the best alternative methods is to use less-hazardous products such as organic fertilizers or biodegradable insecticides and fungicides.

"Since organic fertilizers are typically made from cottonseed meal, bone meal and manure they break down more slowly and release small quantities of nitrates; biodegradable products can take up to three weeks to break down into harmless substances," stated Commissioner Brigandi. "Organic products do just as good a job but without the dangerous environmental impact, resulting in a beautiful yard without adversely impacting our groundwater supply."

State Commission Recommendations Under Review

The New York State Commission on Efficiency and Competitiveness made a series of 73 formal recommendations this month. According to Commissioner Karl Schweitzer, “while some of these may indeed promote significant savings for local governments, much of the intent of these recommendations is aimed at consolidation of districts.”

Not all districts are easily subject to consolidation, nor would economies always result. Too often, the number of special districts is simply chalked up to parochial interests, but that isn’t true, particularly with an enterprise as complex and as vital to daily living as water supply.

For example, the water supply special districts in Nassau County operate some 1,000 wells to adequately serve more than one million people. For a variety of physical reasons, including pressure zones; treatment protocols; aquifer location; and the need to install supply pipelines, those 1,000 wells would be required to serve Nassau County whether there was one water district or 100. Since as much as 25 percent of the basic cost of supplying water in Hicksville is the price of electricity, consolidation is unlikely to offer significant economies.

“Simply put, given the demands of geographical differences and existing cost advantages, wholesale consolidation of water districts may not offer the advantages that consolidation of other entities,” added Schweitzer.

As Hicksville Water District officials continue to review the recommendations, they will be in contact with local political leaders to review the details in more depth and keep consumers up-to-date.

Drinking Water Free of Pharmaceuticals

Lately, there has been a great deal of discussion circulating around the possibility of pharmaceuticals being present in local drinking water supplies. Hicksville Water District officials want to reassure the residents they serve that the water they are drinking is perfectly safe and free of harmful chemicals.

“Unlike New York City, Long Island’s drinking water is drawn from wells that are drilled deep into the earth to reach underground aquifers that hold billions of gallons of water filtered naturally by the sandy soil,” said Hicksville Water District Commissioner Richard Humann. “Because it is located hundreds of feet below the surface of the earth, the water we drink is much less susceptible to contamination from pharmaceutical compounds, compared to those areas of the country that obtain their water from lakes and rivers. To date, our supply wells have not been impacted.”

Research on this issue is ongoing and, according to Commissioner Humann, additional testing will be conducted to ensure that the water supply in Hicksville remains safe. “Our first priority is to protect the public and deliver a safe product,” he commented.

• IN THE NEWS •

Hicksville Water Superintendent Bill Schuckmann has recently become a member of the board of directors for the Hicksville Community Council.



WATER WEEK CELEBRATED - As an active member of the New York State chapter of the American Water Works Association, a professional association of public water suppliers, the Hicksville Water District joined others in the industry in recognizing National Drinking Water Week (May 4-10). This year’s theme, “Only Tap Water Delivers,” was used to place emphasis on the safe, abundant supply of drinking water provided to consumers 24/7 for purposes of drinking and fire protection.

Bonding for Capital Projects

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the projects will be initiated over the next 10 years and completed within the next seven years, with bonding applied for as each is proposed. Repayment would be based upon a 20-year term with the Hicksville Water District maintaining a zero tax increase into the immediate future.

“It is our hope that both Oyster Bay Town Supervisor John Venditto and Hempstead Town Supervisor Kate Murray realize how necessary and vital these redevelopment plans are and that bonding is the most economical approach we can take to fund them,” added Chairman Humann.



District Seeks December Election Date

In an attempt to run a more efficient utility and meet the needs of residents, the Hicksville Water District is seeking to change the date of its elections from August to the second Tuesday in December. If the change is implemented, the water district's elections will take place on the same day the majority of Long Island's 200-plus special districts currently hold elections.

"Changing our election date would keep us in line with a standard voting day and help us improve upon administrative procedures and financial practices while at the same time encouraging greater community involvement," commented Commissioner Karl Schweitzer. "Providing residents with a voting date that coincides with that of other special district elections will help to eliminate confusion and, at the same time, hopefully increase voter participation and interest."

The change in voting date was picked up earlier this year by New York State Senators Craig Johnson and Carl Marcellino and Assemblyman Rob Walker. The change must be approved by the state, as well as the Towns of Oyster Bay and Hempstead, before it can go into effect in

2009. Should the date change be approved, commissioners' terms would expire December 31 of that year.

"Our overall goal is to implement changes that have a positive impact on the community," stated Commissioner Schweitzer.

Sprinkling Regulations

Use of water for irrigation purposes for lawns, shrubs, trees, plants and vegetation of any type is regulated by Nassau County. **ABSOLUTELY NO WATERING IS ALLOWED BETWEEN 10 AM AND 4 PM.** Sprinkling is permitted all other hours under the following guidelines:

- Residents with even house numbers and those without numbered addresses may water on **EVEN DATES.**
- Residents with odd house numbers may water on **ODD DATES.**

These rules apply to automatic, time-controlled sprinkler systems as well as manually-operated hose sprinkling.

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YOUR HICKSVILLE WATER DISTRICT

4 Dean Street
Hicksville, New York 11801

(516) 931-0184
(516) 931-6506 (fax)
www.hicksvillewater.org

Board Meetings

Second and Fourth Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.
at the district office, unless otherwise announced.

Business Hours

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Weekdays

Superintendent

William E. Schuckmann

Account Clerk

Doreen Brunning

Commissioners

Richard A. Humann, **Chairman**
Nicholas J. Brigandi, **Treasurer**
Karl M. Schweitzer, **Secretary**

24 Hour Emergency Number
(516) 931-0184

Member

American Water Works Association
Long Island Water Conference
Nassau-Suffolk Water Commissioners Association

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