

WEST MILFORD MUNICIPAL UTILITY AUTHORITY

WHAT'S GOING ON! Issue No. 13 – Awosting

February 25, 2015

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On Thursday, February 19, 2015, Awosting residents reported low pressure which would indicate a probable leak in the system. The MUA crew worked through extreme weather conditions, but a leak was not located. To effectively troubleshoot the problem, the MUA Engineer laid out locations for installation of new isolation valves throughout the water system to section off the community into quadrants. These valves will obviously aid in the future. Mechanical systems are always subject to failure, especially when they are as old as the infrastructure servicing the users of the MUA in Awosting and throughout West Milford.

The MUA Administrator, Kelly Love, determined quickly, that there would be an interruption of service for an unknown period of time. She ordered a potable water truck to serve the residents during this difficult period.

Throughout the weekend and into Monday, there were up to four crews working diligently into the evening hours in blustering winds with uncommonly cold temperatures. The crews sincerely thank those Awosting residents who supplied hot coffee, food and rest stops in their homes. A total of six valves were ultimately installed. Water was shut on and off to facilitate the process.

The MUA Board of Commissioners received a complete report at their meeting of February 24<sup>th</sup> from the Engineer, Operator, Director of Field Operations and Crew Chief who had all been coordinated through Ms. Love. Certainly, the MUA Board recognizes this as one of the biggest challenges we have faced during our terms over the past three years. The Board approved of the steps taken by the entire team; they were appropriate and well executed.

A leak detection program was put in place yesterday, February 24, 2015, by experts specializing in this field. The system will read water flow in the piping throughout the community. It is being monitored after midnight when water demand is at its lowest. The system will remain in place for up to a month. The MUA will share results from the survey when all the facts are known and a plan for remediation is in place.

I volunteered to be on the MUA Board in March of 2012 for the express purpose of helping Awosting. I continue to gather as much information on Awosting systems as I can. This includes mapping, drawings, manuals and historic data. As the Chairperson for the MUA Board I am proactive in many ways and designated as the Awosting representative. While I have far too much information to share in this newsletter, I am looking forward to speaking with the community at our next meeting to answer any questions you may have and dispel the myths and rumors that have circulated the community.

The MUA staff is a very small but dedicated crew. I truly respect their tenacity during times like this when they are subject to so much scrutiny. I personally thank them for their efforts to satisfy the needs of the community and their patience with those among us who are not so blessed. I know many in Awosting have expressed that same view and it is greatly appreciated.

Carol Hardy, MUA Chairperson

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