

# WEST MILFORD MUNICIPAL UTILITY AUTHORITY

## WHAT'S GOING ON! Issue No. 9

January 13, 2014 – Olde Milford Water Treatment Upgrades  
ASSISTANCE NEEDED FROM USER BASE

---

Residents of Olde Milford attended the MUA Workshop Meeting of January 7, 2014. There have been reports of brown water on Camelot Road and other streets close to this area. The MUA takes this very seriously and is committed to determining the reasons for the complaints and pursuing effective means to improve water service to all residents. The MUA has taken immediate measures by ordering replacement of filters serving Wells #5 and #6.

**Filter Change-out:** The filters in the well houses are not designed to be changed regularly. The life expectancy is dependent upon the usage, i.e., volume and quality of water being treated. Maintenance of the filters is via backwashing. After backwashing, the water is discharged into the sanitary sewer system and treated elsewhere. Periodic water testing by an independent lab has not flagged a problem with the water. However, new technology by the filter manufacturer has shown improvement with removal of residuals that can cause discoloration. We are optimistic that the water coming from Wells #5 and #6 will be clearer with an upgrade of the filter media. The cost of this work is covered in the MUA's current budget.

**Point of Use Wells:** Well #7, the closest to Camelot Road, is a point-of-use well. It has no filters. This well has historically tested negative for residuals that would cause any discoloration. Installation of filters would be ineffective for removal of residuals that cause brown water when those residuals are not present. It would be irresponsible to spend money on filters for Well #7. This point-of-use well is important because it provides needed pressure for the users on Camelot Road.

**Customer Awareness:** Discolored water is not always evident at the wells and is not discovered via independent testing as it can be caused inside your home in your hot water heater. The bacteria from manganese, a naturally occurring mineral found in ground water, grows when heated. It has an odor and turns black. Thus, residential hot water heaters should be flushed as often as needed to clear residue from the base of the heater.

**Water Main Flushing:** The MUA needs feedback from its customer base. If you experience discolored water, you need to report it to the MUA. Do not assume others are doing so. Advising the MUA of your location and any problems you are experiencing allows the MUA to track where there may be an issue within the pipe lines. The first order of treatment outside your home is to flush the water lines. This work is now being scheduled at night, whenever possible. **IF THE MUA HAS ACCESS TO A COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION HOT LINE, WE WILL USE IT. OTHERWISE, FLUSHING NOTICES ARE PLACED WITHIN THE IMPACTED NEIGHBORHOOS AND ON THE MUA WEBSITE.**

### **What you need to know:**

The MUA, is an autonomous agency. The Township created this body; and interviews and appoints commissioners. The Township, via Resolution, requires quarterly reports from the MUA. It would seem logical that the Township should ultimately be responsible for an entity it created. The Township periodically expresses concern with public health and safety. It is for these reasons that the MUA is hopeful that the Township would offer support and assistance to their volunteers. **WE NEED YOU TO HELP GET TOWNSHIP SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE.**

**What are we asking for:**

The MUA is trying to schedule a meeting with the Township to discuss shared services and the future of the MUA. The topics of discussion include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Shared services, i.e., gasoline, identification badges, clearing access roads.
- 2) Comment on consolidation letter to the Governor dated 3/18/13 (copied to Township.)
- 3) Comment on consolidation letter sent to the Township in September 2013.
- 4) Assistance with studying and improving the water and sewer systems of West Milford.
- 5) Appointment of two pro-active liaisons from the Township Council for the MUA.
- 6) Procedures to prevent unauthorized use of treated water by Township Departments.

**Who are we:** The MUA Commissioners are all volunteers; we are not paid for our time. All but one of the current Commissioners are users of the MUA systems. All but two of us have full-time jobs. My fellow-commissioners have an outstanding background of talent, knowledge and experience and are all committed to improving services while respecting the budget. (See attachment for brief resume of the MUA Commissioners.)

We are determined to leave this MUA stronger than we found it. We are committed to bringing the future of this MUA to the attention of the Township and State of New Jersey. Kicking the can down the road is no longer an option.

\* \* \*

<b><u>Board of Commissioners</u></b>		
Carol Hardy (Awosting)	Chairperson	State Certified WBE Mechanical Contractor. Completed Plumbing Systems & Codes @ Kean College. HVAC/Refrigeration Design & Technology.
Ralph Heres (Olde Milford)	Vice Chairman	Mechanical Engineer with a Master's in Environmental Engineering. He has designed and built treatment plants for MUA's and superfund sites. He is a user in Old Milford.
Dave Ofshinsky (Crescent Park)	Treasurer	Bachelor of Arts, William Paterson University, Magna Cum Laude, 1980. Major: Accounting w/work in financial management
Paul McGill (Highview)	Alt #1 Asst. Treasurer	Licensed Professional Engineer with a Masters in Business Administration from Villanova. He was head of the Construction Dept for Mercedes-Benz USA and is now in the solar energy business.
Lou Monico (Bald Eagle Village)	Secretary	Degree in Acctn'g from City College of Business in NY, Systems analyst and Employee Work measurements analyst for GECC then Financial Project Manager for UPS.
Ed Spirko (Pinecliff Lake)	Commissioner	33 yr. Resident of West Milford. MUA Board member 2007 - 2010. manage 10 facilities in US & Canada including phone computers. Excel expert w/\$5M budget. Learning Management System for 8400 people.