

**Water Quality Committee  
Village of Millbrook  
July 26, 2010**

**In attendance:** Mayor Laura Hurley, Frank Genova, Deputy Mayor Stanley Morse, Steve Lynch, Howard Schuman, Scott Tumblety, Ken Scherrieble and Dr. William Augerson.

**Overview of Committee-**Mayor Hurley began the evening by stating the mission of the Water Quality Committee. She stated the mission is to ensure that safe drinking water is readily available to the residents of the Village of Millbrook by examining the existing system, considering future needs, providing the highest protection possible for our watershed, and identifying an alternative water source. The committee's ultimate goal is to provide water quality and safety for the water supply. Mayor Hurley stated that this is the committee's first meeting with a diverse membership. It is her hope that this dynamic group is best for determining water sources and a positive outcome for the Village.

Mayor Hurley stated that future meetings will be posted on the Village website. She added that she hopes to start to have subgroups to find areas each committee member is best suited for. Each member received a copy of the work plan from the Shared Services Grant and a copy of the Village's Comprehensive Plan section on the water system. They also received information on the infiltration gallery and a map of the existing water system with one exception at the bottom of the map where a water storage tank is no longer in existence. The Mayor also distributed VRI's water quality report. The committee will eventually broaden their discussions to include a secondary water system and the number of residents it will serve. The Mayor asked for any questions.

**General Discussion-**Frank Genova stated his reason for attending is simply because approximately 35 to 40 years ago to the present Mabbettsville has changed. Since this is where the Village's water source is located, he is concerned about the need for an additional pumping station as a reserve or a supplemental system to the existing system. This is a serious wetland area where the Town of Washington pool and park are located. This is significant for the Village resident's water source due to the park and pool being open to all. There are hazardous materials throughout the area. He also stated his concern over 8 municipalities using the Ten Mile River watershed. Frank added the level of precipitation concerns, safety reasons, pumping stations as to zones 1, 2 and 3, and extending zone 3 for safety reasons. Frank ended by stating that this committee should not meet without Chazen's senior hydrologist for safety, comfort and good results.

Mayor Hurley reiterated that an alternative water source and water protection is Frank's main concerns. If a catastrophic event occurred the Village would not be prepared.

Steve Lynch discussed the tasks listed under the Shared Services Grant. Mayor Hurley informed the committee that the entire Village water supply is located within the Town of Washington. Steve went on to describe the subset of the committee handout. Everyone agreed as to the need for a second water source. Steve stated the grant is not an advocacy

piece, the grant does not look at whether the Village should expand the water system or not. The grant will look at the options the community has and analysis of the water system. Steve stated the grant will also look at the operating costs and who should pay for it. He added that growth is a sensitive issue for this committee. The committee is not an advocate in either direction. Steve Lynch stated that in the grant the committee will provide the information to make that decision.

**Tasks-**Steve began discussing task 1 of the Shared Services Grant which includes the construction work related to remediate the sewer lines. In reference to the sewer lines, the bids were received today and recommendations to the Village Board of Trustees will occur tomorrow. Task 2 of the grant covers the water and sewer systems and extending both to those to residents who do not have those services currently. This task also explores the possibility and cost of expansion to a portion of the Town of Washington residents. Steve added that the grant creates funding to research the future needs at Bennett site and the cost, extension to residents of the Village and the Town of Washington. The committee will do the preliminary research as to the Town of Washington growth and needs for water and sewer. The committee will also help identify the future needs at the former Dutchess County Infirmary site. Steve has met with the facility manager and will meet again in August. Ken Scherrieble stated that the Town of Washington's growth areas and current residents having water issues will also be included in this study. Task 3 includes funding to allow the Village and the Town of Washington's comprehensive plan in relation to the water and sewer systems. This is due to the fact that they should have similar plans and active coordination.

Mayor Hurley stated that when the Town of Washington makes zoning changes, they will need this information to take into consideration. Steve discussed that task 4 is for the examination of the water and sewer rate schedules. It will also analyze our rates in relation to 20 other municipalities in all for their water and sewer consumption. It was suggested that a committee member could gather the data.

The Mayor stated that the water and sewer funds are self supporting. She added that the water fund is very efficient and has sufficient funds. On the other hand, the sewer fund is at a break even point, dollar to dollar. The sewer fund may need restructuring to be able to afford capital improvements. Steve added that the committee may look at a 1 to 2 year window in relation to the water and sewer rates. Task 5, according to Steve, will track the equipment inventory, maintenance costs and repair needs. This asset management plan will look at the existing system and project the operating costs in next 10-15 years. This task will also have the committee look at the affect of expansion on the existing system. Mayor Hurley stated that in being the Board of Trustees water/sewer liaison she has always looked to the sewer system and the SPEDES permit. She added that the water system has not received the same attention as the sewer system. Steve asked the committee to set a regular meeting date and post this information on the Village website.

**General Discussion continued-**Bill Augerson gave his thoughts in relation to the idea that he is much more comfortable with looking ahead for a future aquifer. He added that the meteorological studies conducted in the past may be valid for the next 10 years in

forecasting rainfall and droughts. Bill added that increased demands for water, studies of other communities and contingencies would be helpful to empower the Village government to have restraint. He added that water conservation may not be cost driven. In addition, Bill stated the Village code could assist with demand for such items as swimming pools which may be relevant to this task. He requested a copy of the engineering layout for the water/sewer system so he can be more familiar with the system. Bill added that the Village cannot or it is difficult to police an adjacent municipally use and demands for water.

Frank Genova stated that he has a copy of the 2004 Bennett complex expansion report given by Neil Wilson who was advisor to the Town of Washington. Neil created a chart for various water requirements and land use requirements which he can provide to the committee. The Mayor offered to start a library in the Village Hall and also offered the committee a tour of the water and sewer plant sites. This will give them an idea of the system. She suggested a field trip for the next meeting. Bill stated that studying parts of society in a short time frame may not be a good predictor of the future. Mayor Hurley gave an example of the oil spill which went undetected until ground water forced the oil to the surface over an extended period of time.

Trustee Morse stated he tends to approach the water system issues from a business point of view. He added that the sole water source scares him and he is concerned over several possible threats to that sole water source. Trustee Morse spoke to Mark Molinaro who offered to meet informally with the committee to discuss hydro-fracting and his experiences with wells and deep drilling wells in the Village of Tivoli. He added that other communities may have something to offer rather than the committee having to start from scratch.

Ken Scherrieble stated the Village of Millbrook water quality report is given for the previous year by the time all reports and results are available. Trustee Morse questioned if the Village has a plan for a secondary water source. He also asked about an emergency water supply is available if neighboring communities have an emergency causing an influx of people. Bill stated that it is hard to estimate the number of people needing our support. In case of an emergency, surface water may have to be used and treated. He added that there are expedient ways to treat water. In addition, he added it is hard to scale a water supply for emergencies.

Ken stated that the committee will have to work on this issue separately since an emergency water demand study is not funded by the grant. Steve stated that planning for emergencies, long term trends, enhancing the water supply in an emergency and controlling consumption in an emergency can be looked at by the committee.

Bill stated that if available it would be helpful to know the historical tracking of water availability. It is his point of view that the climate will only get warmer and we will suffer from more dry spells. Perhaps the committee should see what we can learn about climate forecasting. Howard Schuman stated that they cannot predict the long and short term water availability. The Village cannot convert back to wells. Howard added that it

is a difficult task and the committee needs to consider the primary goal is to protect what the Village has and extending those resources into the future. The committee should first cover the drop in available water before extending the water supply.

Bill stated that nationally we don't do well with aquifers. Frank stated that from 1988 to 2003 we had 6 occurrences of below average precipitation into our only source of water. Bill stated he would be pleasantly surprised that those in construction take into consideration water consumption. Steve stated that the committee is in a position to do this. The grant work can look at the "what ifs" such as hooking up more houses in the Village and the Town of Washington. Steve added that the committee can also look at the adequacy of the water supply. Frank stated that 27,500 gallons of water are produced from every inch of rain. He added that the best aquifers are where buildings are being built.

Mayor Hurley asked for Scott Tumblety's input. Scott asked about the old ice house on the end of Reservoir Drive as a water source. He was told that the water came from the same watershed as the current water system. The Mayor stated that Village residents who have wells use them to water their gardens and such. Frank stated that Dedrick's pond was used as an ice pond and not a water source and this is why they dammed the water. Using this as an alternate water source would have a negative effect since it is the same source as our current water source. Howard asked to look for a map of surface water and ponds. Ken stated that it is a practical matter to have a well system rather than a surface water system. Howard added that it may not be a viable idea but the Village may use surface water as an emergency water source.

Frank stated that the Wappingers Creek water level is lower compared to past depths. This and other surface water sources may not be viable in the future. Scott added that pond dreading takes a long time to acquire the necessary NYS DEC permits. The Mayor stated that Kathy Manzi-Doro inquired about the Milk Pond, as a water source, but it has the same water shed as our current water source according to Ken. Ken stated that Reservoir Drive, Mill Pond and Dedrick Pond are all out as an alternate water source since they have the same initial watershed source as our current system. Mayor Hurley stated that the Town of Washington's largest area of concern is Horseshoe Drive.

Neil Corri from the Cornell Cooperative Extension will provide maps and information to the committee. Trustee Morse offered the VRI water and sewer monthly reports. Howard asked how far back can VRI go with these reports and can they put them on a spread sheet.

Trustee Morse inquired about the impact of building out on housing lots within the Village in such areas as Nine Partners Lane and the former Bennett College. Steve asked if anyone has quantified that availability. The Mayor added that Thorndale and the Hitchcock property drive this figure. She stated in addition that the Village of Millbrook is the largest geographically in Dutchess County and this could play a major role in the Village. Ken added that a build up could be significant as well. Frank stated that a build out map for the Hitchcock property could be available. The Mayor added that maps are

available from Dutchess County. It was recommended that deed restrictions be put on those two parcels. The Mayor stated that it is difficult and the Village cannot spot zone. She added other areas of concern are the possible abandonment of the Elm Drive School and making the Alden Place a main campus encompassing all of the school buildings.

**Future Meeting Scheduled**-Mayor Hurley reminded the committee that the next meeting will be the field trips to the water and sewer facilities. Ken suggested the next meeting be held on Thursday, August 5, 2010 at the Village Hall at 4:30 pm. Mayor Hurley stated that the committee will go to the water works water plant, rain or shine. Ken stated that the Institute for Ecosystem Studies is creating a more detailed map of the aquifers located in Dutchess County. Trustee Morse stated he will contact the appropriate personnel and distribute to the committee copies of this map. Bill asked and it was confirmed that the sewer usage is based upon water consumption.

The meeting concluded at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda T. Wiltse  
Village of Millbrook  
Clerk/Treasurer