

BELMONT WATER DEPARTMENT

Significant Information and Statistics

All water consumed in Belmont is supplied by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) from reservoirs owned and operated by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). The Town is under contract with the MWRA and is required to pay for all water supplied to the Town.

Safe Drinking Water Act

During 2002, the water supplied to the Belmont Water Department by the MWRA was in compliance with all Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL'S) as established by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The SDWA defines water quality parameters, which are considered safe for human consumption. The SDWA is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and enforced by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Water samples are analyzed on a weekly basis for microbiological contamination and on a periodic basis for organic compounds, heavy metals and pesticides. The MWRA laboratory or a certified laboratory under contract with the MWRA performs all tests. Reports are on permanent file at the Water Department Office.

The Department has identified all water service pipes which are either all or partial lead. A program designed to replace these lead pipes was started in 1992 and will continue in 2003.

WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

System Composition

Types of Pipe:	Ductile Iron, Cast Iron, Galvanized Iron, Copper, Asbestos Cement
Size Range:	1.5-inch to 16-inch Diameter
Number of Hydrants:	680
Number of Services:	7,331
Types of Services:	Copper, Brass, Cement Lined Iron, Galvanized Iron, Wrought Iron, Cast Iron
Percentage of Services Metered:	100%

Extent of Main Pipe System

Pipe Diameter	Length in Feet	Percent of System
16-Inch	279	.58
12-Inch	32,272	6.71
10-Inch	62,286	12.94
8-Inch	188,781	39.23
6-Inch	192,101	39.92
2-Inch	4,945	1.02
1.5-Inch	584	.12
Total	481,248 Feet	100.00 %

WATER CONSUMPTION DATA

Average Water Consumption in Millions of Gallons Per Day (MGD)**

Month	2001	2002
January	2.365	2.054
February	2.196	2.021
March	2.208	1.967
April	2.103	2.021
May	2.793	2.196
June	2.868	2.409
July	2.885	2.027
August	2.938	3.363
September	2.784	2.731
October	2.496	2,425
November	2.138	2.220
December	2.239	2.241
Average	2.528	2.393

Average Consumption per person per day*

91.59 Gallons 86.71 Gallons

Total Consumption from MWRA**

2000 904,752,000

2001 915,100,000

2002 873,500,000

* Estimated Population of 27,600

** Data supplied by the MWRA

Water Main Replacement Program 2002

"Unity Ave/Marlboro Street Area Project"

Pipe Replaced/Installed*: Replaced 4,900 feet of 6 inch unlined cast iron pipe originally installed between 1887 and 1932 with 4,900 feet of 8 inch ductile iron pipe. 15 old hydrants were replaced with 15 new hydrants.

Service Changes: 141 individual services transferred to new water mains.

*Subject to correction in final engineering audit.

Comments

The year 2002, proved to be a most challenging year for the Belmont Water Department. Along with the customary and rapid changes occurring in the water utility industry, The MWRA has continued with a series of substantial annual rate increases. These increases will more than double our cost of water supplied to the Town by 2004. The MWRA has initiated several massive and necessary water works projects such as the new Metro West Tunnel and the Walnut Hill Drinking Water Treatment Plant. These substantial MWRA rate increases will have a significant impact on our water rate as well. Every effort will be made to minimize our rate increases while maintaining our services and capital program.

The Water Main Replacement Program entered the eight-year with start and completion of the "Unity Ave./Marlboro Street Area Project" and the "North Pleasant Street Project". The Water Main Replacement Program is a capital program intended to renew 40% of the water distribution system serving 60% of the Town's population. This program will insure that potable drinking water is reliably supplied to our customers well into the future. We expect to bid the next project in the spring of 2003 with construction to start in the late spring or summer of 2003. The emphasis in this phase of the program continues to deal with water main break problem areas and hydraulic deficiencies. With the continued support of Town Meeting and our valued customers, yearly water main replacement will continue until the Water Main Replacement Program is successfully completed.

Our water meter modernization program continues with 60% of our meters either being replaced or retrofitted. As this program continues, far fewer estimated water sewer bills are being issued. Our goal is to completely eliminate estimated bills, billing on actual meters readings.

We continued with our cooperative effort with the Belmont Fire Department to replace obsolete fire hydrants. During 2002, 24 old obsolete fire hydrants were replaced. Of this total our department construction team replaced 9.

Security in the water supply industry is now a paramount concern and Belmont Water has formed an anti-terrorism task force to ensure our water supply remains safe. This task force is working with the MWRA, DEP and EPA on security issues.

In May 2002, an active service and highly valued employee, David Castagno, died suddenly. The Department was in deep shock at his untimely passing. We extend our sincerest sympathies to his beloved wife and children and the entire Castagno family.

With enthusiasm, the Board looks forward to working with: the Board of Selectmen, the Warrant and Capital Budget Committees, the Financial Task Force, the Town Administrator and department managers, and you our customers, to improve the quality of our water system as we build for the future of Belmont.

We express our sincere appreciation to our highly dedicated and skilled craft employees for a job well done. Their efforts ensure that everyone in Town receives a reliable supply of safe drinking water. We thank all Town Department Managers and employees for their cooperation and assistance during the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert J. LaPierre, Chair