

PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION

Herewith I submit the Department of Public Works report for the year ending December 31, 2007, covering the following: Public Works Administration, Street Maintenance, Sanitary Sewer Maintenance, Stormwater Maintenance, Central Fleet Maintenance, Deltas & Grounds Maintenance, Forestry Services, Solid Waste Collection & Disposal, Recycling, Capital and Personnel.

The new Department of Public Works consisting of the Cemetery Division, Highway Division, Parks and Facilities and the Water Division began to operate under the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and the newly created position of Director of Public Works on July 1, 2003.

This consolidated department enjoyed its fourth full year of operation in 2007. The continued focus is to reorganize according to the plan that was developed and continue to centralize the administrative functions of all divisions.

During 2007, Public Works Administration originated 12 contracts for vehicles, supplies and/or services under Chapter 30B, the Uniform Procurement Act. Significant administrative time was spent working with the Tree Warden, Tree Service Company, Executive Safety Committee, Massachusetts Water Resources Advisory Board and Shade Tree Committee. Highway personnel assisted with the following community projects: Voting, Booster's Carnival, Belmont Center Town Day, Holiday Lighting Ceremony in Belmont Center, Easter Parade in Belmont Center, the Farmer's Market, Zip Trip for Fox 25 News, Emergency Flu Clinic, Arbor Day and the Waverley Trail.

BOARD OF CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of Cemetery Commissioners herewith files our annual report of activities for the calendar year 2007, our 148th year in operation. We are a three member entirely volunteer board, consisting of Chairman Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Vice Chairman Charles R. Johnson and Clerk Alexander E. Corbett, III. Our collective accomplishments would never have been possible without the expertise of our Superintendent Robert P. Gardiner.

Of the 111 total interments at the two cemeteries, 50 (45%) were non-residents of the Town, to whom extra fees were assessed totaling \$15,000. Total fee receipts for both cemeteries were \$118,486 including all grave openings, foundations, disinterments and canopy rentals.

Highland Meadow Cemetery Activities

2007 was an historic year. Residents of the Town of Belmont can again choose their hometown as a final place of rest for the first time in nearly two decades. Highland Meadow Cemetery was officially dedicated October 20th with a small ceremony, although interments began in July to allow grieving families to complete their final arrangements. Thirty two interments took place in 2007, including 9 cremations. Lot sales continue to be vigorous, totaling \$1,555,800 since sales opened March 13, 2006, consisting of \$1,458,000 for 302 casket lots, and \$97,800 for 56 cremation lots.

Belmont Cemetery Activities

Although new burial lots for traditional interments have not been available at Belmont Cemetery since 1988, 79 interments were made to existing lots in 2007 including 25 cremations. (This compares to 97 total in 2006, including 28 cremations).

Staff and Organization

Our cemeteries continue to be recognized as truly beautiful and pastoral places. We are grateful for the expertise, dedication and pride of workmanship of our employees, Superintendent Robert Gardiner, Foreman John McDonough, Jeff Currier, Craig Crisafi, Kyle Matthews and Nancy Fay as well as our part-time helpers Austin Bennett and Bill Harris. Preparations for the opening of Highland Meadow benefited from the exceptional efforts of DPW workers.

Progress against Goals:

- Acquire and develop land for a new cemetery. Completed 2007
- Develop pricing structure and marketing brochure for Highland Meadow. Completed 2007
- Working with Town Treasurer, implement a financial plan. 1. Pay off debt - paid off, 2. Fund Perpetual Care Fund - Growing, 3. Invest in future cemetery phases and 4. Develop a plan to become cost-neutral for all cemetery operations within six years. Continuing to develop the longer term aspects of these plans
- Annual planting program. Continues to grow and expand successfully
- Continue tree planting program and enhance landscape areas at Belmont Cemetery. Slow enrollments at Belmont Cemetery but recently expanded to Highland Meadow. Planning underway to renovate the heart-shaped planting bed at entrance and smaller beds for spring 2008
- Develop ways to inspire and reward employees to take pride in their work. Ongoing
- Develop new revenue opportunities and identify cost-savings opportunities. This work continues as we examine better, more cost-efficient ways to operate more formally in 2008.

Full-time employees of cemetery division.....	5
Part-time and seasonal employees of cemetery division.....	3
Cemetery Perpetual Care Fund.....	\$ 491,077
Annual Planting Fund	77,464
Total Fee Receipts	118,486
Appropriation FY07 Budget	410,380

Actual Expense against FY07 Budget..... 373,616

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Chairman

HIGHWAY DIVISION

STREET MAINTENANCE

The Highway Division maintained, cleaned and signed Belmont's 77.76 miles of public roads. In addition, we cleaned, signed and performed minor maintenance work 8.10 miles of private ways.

During 2007, a total of 11 sidewalks were repaired. The Town's contractor repaired or replaced 1 concrete sidewalk at 15,487 square feet which completed the second phase of the Gilbert Road sidewalk replacement. Highway personnel repaired or replaced 10 concrete sidewalks amounting to 1,962 square feet.

The deterioration of the roads continues to be a major concern. With each passing year, additional manpower and funding are required to maintain the roadways. A program using Chapter 90 funding for the Pavement Management Program and the design for the reconstruction of Pleasant Street continued. These funds are used to leverage federal construction funds for road improvements on Pleasant Street construction began in 2005. Planning continues to address the reconstruction of the Belmont Street/Trapelo Road corridor. The reconstruction of Pleasant Street is expected to be completed in 2008. The Pavement Management Program continued to address the serious condition of the roads. A coordinated approach working with the Town Administrator, Community Development Department and Water Division has developed a plan to address the road and sidewalk improvements and coordinate the replacement and repair of utilities.

Street signs, regulatory and traffic signs were purchased, prepared, erected and maintained by the Highway Division.

Crosswalks, center and parking lines were repainted by Highway personnel during the year. The Highway personnel painted blue and white handicap markings on 53 various designated parking spaces throughout Town. A total of 515 gallons of white, 380 gallons of yellow and five gallons of blue traffic paint were used during 2007.

During 2007, Highway personnel responded to 29 overtime snow or ice calls ranging from a trace to 11 inches. All snow and ice storms were cleared and sanded by Division personnel with assistance from other Town employees from the Water, Parks & Facilities, Cemetery Divisions and Electric Light Department. Contractors assisted with snow plowing during 5 storms in 2007. The total snowfall for calendar year 2007 was 51.5 inches. Belmont's 1995 By-Law covering a Snow Emergency Parking Ban was put into effect twice during 2007.

Mr. Edward Freeman retired after almost 40 years of dedicated service to the Highway Division.

SANITARY SEWER MAINTENANCE

Belmont has two sanitary sewer pumping stations, one located on Stony Brook Road, and the other on Woodbine Road, which the Highway Division maintains and services on a weekly basis. Each week the division also maintains and cleans selected main lines throughout the Town as part of a regular maintenance program. The division is responsible for 76 miles of main lines, appurtenances and about 6,700 building services.

During 2007, 27 individual building connections were televised to determine the condition and priority for repair. As a part of our ongoing maintenance program, 6 sanitary sewer lines were repaired. The Highway Division responded to 247 building stoppages during the year.

The Board of Selectmen voted to increase the metered sewer charge to \$8.24/CCF with a minimum service charge of \$5.74 per billing. The "lifeline" rate is at \$6.99/CCF.

The replacement of the Stony Brook Pumping Station has been placed on to the long term Capital needs request at an estimated cost of \$450,000.

STORM DRAIN MAINTENANCE

The annual cleaning of approximately 1,900 catch basins was completed during the spring by a private contractor. An ongoing program of maintenance and cleaning of main lines was continued during 2007. The division is responsible for maintenance of all catch basins, manholes and 54 miles of main lines. Maintenance and cleaning is also provided for storm drain connections to buildings.

Under the Sanitary Sewer and Storm Drain Capital Program the Highway Division was authorized to purchase a one ton pickup at a cost of \$31,700 and one administrative vehicle at a cost of \$21,100.

CENTRAL FLEET MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Since 1981 the Highway Division has managed a Central Fleet Maintenance facility at the Highway Yard on C Street. Most Town owned vehicles and equipment are serviced and fueled at this location. Gasoline, diesel fuel, tires, lubrication, preventive and general maintenance along with extensive motor repair is available to Town Departments. Waste oil continues to be accepted from residents in addition to waste oil generated from the Town's vehicle maintenance program. Equipment which supports all Highway Division programs is stored at this facility as well.

DELTAS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The Highway Division is responsible for 52 separate deltas, islands and grounds including most of the land around Clay Pit Pond. During the spring all areas were cleaned and for the balance of the growing season the property was mowed, maintained for and cleaned.

Because of budget constraints, no seasonal staff was authorized to be employed during the growing season to assist with maintenance.

The Garden Club has, once again, provided labor and plantings to enhance several public areas throughout the Town. Their generosity and public spirit has helped enormously to beautify the town and is especially appreciated given recent budget limitations. This past summer we again enjoyed the appearance of these public spaces.

FORESTRY SERVICE

Asplundh Tree Expert Company served the second year of a three-year contract for tree care during fiscal year 2007. Thomas D. Walsh also served the second year of a three-year term as Tree Warden and his report follows.

Report of the Tree Warden

For the Twenty second consecutive year, the Town of Belmont was recognized as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Arbor Day was celebrated on April 27, 2007 with the planting of two Oak trees at the Beaver Brook Park, one on the Belmont side of the brook and the other on the Waltham side of the Brook. The ceremony was part of the Waverley Trail Project and took place with the Butler School's fourth grader's participation as well as a fourth grade class from Waltham.

During 2007, the Town purchased 125 trees and planted them in various locations. Trees were watered during the growing months. The Town removed 74 dead and dangerous trees during 2007.

The contractor maintained public shade trees predominantly in response to requests from citizens for service. In addition to maintenance work performed on these larger public shade trees, many small, young trees were pruned as part of our pro-active program to assure good form, structure, health and vigor as they develop towards maturity. Storm damaged trees also were routinely repaired to insure the long-term health of the affected trees.

Three Tree Hearings were held during the year.

As Tree Warden, I express my appreciation and thanks to the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Director of Public Works, Department and Division Managers, Shade Tree Committee and employees of the Town for their support, cooperation and assistance during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas D. Walsh, Tree Warden

SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Residential solid waste continues to be collected once per week at each household, with recyclables collected every other week. Solid waste is transported to the Wheelabrator North Andover (WNA) Resource/Recovery Facility in North Andover. In 2005 the Town signed a four year and nine month contract with WNA for solid waste disposal service.

Russell Disposal served the second year of a five-year contract as our collection contractor during 2007.

In addition to weekly residential trash and the weekly appliance collection for recycling, the program also collects and recycles on an every other week schedule clear, green and brown glass, #1 thru #7 plastics, steel/tin/metal containers, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, newsprint, junk mail, mixed paper and telephone books. Cathode ray tubes (televisions and computer monitors, also known as CRTs) are collected weekly as scheduled. On July 1, 2004 a \$15 per item fee was instituted for the recycling of Cathode Ray Tubes (computer monitors and televisions) and a \$20 per item fee for the recycling of household appliances. Yard waste is collected every other week from April to mid October and weekly during the fall leaf season.

In 2007, corrugated cardboard along with milk and juice cartons were added to the recycling program.

During Calendar 2007, the Town recycled 5,147 tons or 35.56% from the residential solid waste stream. The Town realized \$2,280 from the sale of recycling bins, \$1,080 from the sale of compost bins along with \$28,785 from the sale of appliance and CRT recycling stickers.

TRANSFER STATION OPERATION AND SITE

The Master Land Use Plan for the site surrounding the Transfer Station was followed during 2007. The site continues to be used for solid fill disposal from public works operations. Asphalt, concrete, wood chips, tree stumps and logs from public works operations continue to be stored at the site before being recycled.

For the fifteenth fall season, leaves were collected weekly in containers by our solid waste contractor to be composted commercially out of Town. The fee to local landscape contractors for depositing leaves in our compost pile at the transfer station site on 1130 Concord Avenue for the fall season (\$400 per vehicle) generated \$10,800 in revenue. Residents were allowed to bring leaves to the compost

area at no charge. For the last seventeen years, the division has windrowed the leaves in an effort to facilitate decomposition. Active marketing enabled a large amount of leaf compost to be hauled out of Town and recycled at no cost. We continue to actively seek markets for leaf compost so that we will have space for storage of future years' leaves for composting.

Through the Office of Community Development the Town has retained Camp Dresser & McKee to provide an engineering assessment of the former Incinerator Site and ash landfill at 1130 Concord Avenue to comply with The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's regulations. The initial site assessment and comprehensive site assessment have been completed.

PARKS AND FACILITIES

Parks and Facilities provides for the cleaning, maintenance, repair and improvement of the resources for recreational enjoyment. These include; the Skip Viglirolo Skating Rink, Underwood Pool and adjacent park, Concord Avenue Athletic fields and facilities, Hittinger Street Field, Town Field, Pequossette Field, Chenery Middle School Field, Grove Street Field, Payson Park Playground and Winn Brook Field. In addition, this group maintains the tennis courts at the Grove Street Field, Pequossette Field, Chenery Middle School Field and Winn Brook Field.

A new fencing program was set up to alleviate some safety issues with the fencing around our playgrounds. Some new fencing was put in place at Pequossette playground, Winn Brook playground and the Chenery Middle School.

This year 600 cubic yards of fiber was placed in the tot lots at Grove Street, Underwood Street, Pequossette Park, Town field, Payson Park and the Chenery Middle School to ensure the safety of these tot lots.

In 2007, the Athletic fields and facilities had many improvements thanks to the generous donations from various organizations. New infield mix was applied on fields at the Hittinger Street (thanks to the Boosters Association), at the Girls softball field (thanks to the Brendon Grant Foundation), at the Junior Varsity field at Concord Avenue (thanks to the Frank French Company), and at the Varsity field at Concord Avenue (thanks to the Brendon Grant Foundation).

A brand new Little League field was put in at the Hank Doyle Field at Grove Street. The old field was taken out completely and re-leveled with new sod and infield mix. This effort was due to the generous donations of the Belmont Youth Baseball Association. This association also made it possible for 15 foot baseball benches and cement pads to be installed at the Little League fields at Grove Street, the Junior Varsity diamond at Concord Avenue and the Girls softball field at Concord Avenue. Also, at the Girls softball field a canopy was placed over the players benches because of the Brendan Grant Foundation's donation.

Clearly the generous contributions add value to the Recreational Facilities and are enjoyed by the staff, participants and spectators alike. Again, we thank these organizations for their continued financial support at a time of great need and for donating their time to improve and maintain these important facilities. The Parks and Facilities maintenance staff works closely with all of the Town organizations in the care and maintenance of all athletic facilities.

PERSONNEL

At year's end, the Public Works Administration has 3 budgeted full time employees; the Highway Division had 25 budgeted full time employees, and a part time Tree Warden. The Parks and Facilities group had 5 budgeted full time employees.

Several employees successfully completed educational course related to their employment, which were funded by the Town during 2007. Several employee safety programs were held during 2007 in conjunction with the Executive Safety Committee. The DPW Highway Division, represented by two teams, Paul Mosca & Michael Eccles and Nicholas Kacoyanis & George Patsios participated in the City of Boston Snow Plow and Safety Training in September 2007 testing their skill and knowledge. We are pleased that the team of Nicholas Kacoyanis & George Patsios placed 1st overall in this event and the team of Paul Mosca & Michael Eccles placed 2nd overall. Our appreciation and congratulations to these four employees for representing themselves and the Town so well.

I wish to express my appreciation to the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator, Department and Division Managers, Shade Tree Committee, all other committees and employees for their support, cooperation and assistance during 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter J. Castanino
Director of Public Works

BELMONT WATER DIVISION

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 Massachusetts Division of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). 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 2007 the water supplied to the Department of Public Works Water Division 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 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. All tests are performed by the MWRA laboratory or a certified laboratory under contract with the MWRA. Reports are on permanent file at the Water Division Office.

The Division 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 2008. There are only three remaining lead service lines in Belmont.

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: 684
 Number of Services: 7,546
 Types of Services: Copper, Brass, Cement Lined Iron, Galvanized Iron, Wrought Iron, Cast Iron, Lead
 Percentage of Services Metered: 100%
 Total Water Main: 489,681 Feet (92.74 miles)

WATER CONSUMPTION DATA

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

Month	2006	2007
January	1.985	2.001
February	1.949	2.236
March	1.956	2.311
April	1.988	2.188
May	2.050	2.457
June	2.174	2.820
July	2.321	2.824
August	2.421	3.027
September	2.155	2.926
October	1.976	2.441
November	1.916	2.000
December	1.929	2.012
Average	2.224	2.432

*Average Consumption per person 80.71 Gallons, per day 94.85 Gallons

Total Consumption from MWRA**

2005	811,600,000	Gallons
2006	755,400,000	Gallons
2007	887,700,000	Gallons

* Estimated Population of 25,641

** Data supplied by the MWRA

WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROGRAM, 2007

During 2007, the Washington Street Area Project was completed and the Kilburn Park Area Project was started. These projects included the following work:

1. Transferred all remaining home water services on Washington Street from an old unlined six inch water main to a newer ten inch water main and abandoning 1,801 feet of old (1888) six inch unlined diameter water main.
2. Replaced or added 1,601 feet of new twelve inch diameter ductile iron water main on Cross Street, Channing Road, Cushing Avenue and Oakley Road.
3. Replaced or added 144 feet of new ten inch diameter ductile iron water main on Washington Street, and Common Street.
4. Replaced 3,152 feet of old unlined iron six inch diameter water main with new twelve inch diameter water main on Washington Street, Monroe Street, Cushing Avenue, Payson Road, Oakley Road, Clarke Street, Blake Street and Clover Street.
5. Replaced 18 Fire Hydrants

The Kilburn Park Project will be completed during 2008 and the project for 2008 (FY 2009) is currently pending the selection and review process.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Gerard Schultz, Water Superintendent

WATER ADVISORY BOARD

The Water Advisory Board continues in its function to advise the Town on the financial matters of the Water Division and engage in discussions of the water utility business. We are challenged by the steadily increasing wholesale cost of water from the MWRA which comprises 45% of the Water Division budget while keeping rates under reasonable control and providing very good and reliable service to our customers.

In 2007 the Water Advisory Board supported a 20 year financial plan developed by Public Works staff. This plan will increase our investment in our water system from \$647,000 to \$1.2M annually rising with inflation. This investment increase was necessary in order to meet the Capital Improvement Plan (Water Main Replacement Program) goal of replacing all unlined water main in the system within a total of 30 years. This is planned to be accomplished by utilizing no-interest loans from the MWRA and bonding capital expenses while maintaining the goal of an annual water rate increase of about 5%. The Water Main Replacement Program continues and is now in the 13th year (of 30 years) with considerable progress made but there is still much work ahead as we replace an ageing water distribution system. This program is a vital investment to meet the needs of our customers now and into the future.

The Meter Modernization program is now 98% complete and allows remote radio water meter reading. In 2006 the Water/Sewer billing function was transferred to the Belmont Municipal Light Department which now places all meter reading and utility billing in one customer service office.

In 2007, a valued employee, William Kyle retired after 35 years of dedicated and valued service to the Water Department/Division. We wish him and his family a very happy and rewarding retirement. We also express our sincere appreciation to the highly skilled and dedicated craft employees for a job well done for their efforts this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank E. French, Chairman

MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCE AUTHORITY ADVISORY BOARD

The Massachusetts Water Resource Authority ("MWRA") was created by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1984 to succeed in the interests of the Metropolitan District Commission with regard to the delivery of safe drinking water to the member communities and to treat and dispose of wastewater from the member communities, all in conformance with applicable law. The same legislation that created the MWRA also created the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority Advisory Board to represent the interest of the sixty-one member communities. Each municipality is represented by at least one person on the Advisory Board. In my capacity as Director of Public Works I have been appointed to the MWRA Advisory Board by the Board of Selectmen to represent the Town of Belmont. MWRA provides wholesale water and sewer services to sixty communities. Fifty communities purchase water supply services, and forty-four communities purchase wastewater transport and treatment services. Thirty-four communities purchase both. In 2007 the Advisory Board voted the Town of Reading into the MWRA as a fully supplied water community. Approximately 2.5 million people, or 43 percent of the population of Massachusetts live and work in the communities that purchase water and/or wastewater services from MWRA.

MWRA provides water and sewer services to communities on a wholesale basis. Each community then re-sells services on a retail basis. As a result, household water and sewer charges include each household's share of the community's MWRA water or sewer assessments, plus the community's own charges for the provision of local water or sewer charges.

MWRA funds its operations primarily through user assessments and charges. No funds supporting the current expense budget are subject to appropriation, except debt service assistance from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and several minor reimbursements from the Commonwealth. Federal grants have ended.

MWRA finances its capital improvement program primarily from issuing long-term general revenue bonds. Savings in capital costs are particularly important since every dollar cut from the capital budget saves approximately three dollars in future debt financing costs. The MWRA has adopted a policy whereby the term of bonds is matched to the life of the facility/facilities. In order to control costs to its member communities the MWRA has placed a cap on capital expenditures. The debt service for the MWRA, currently 60% of the annual current expense budget, is expected to be at 65% by the year 2010.

The Boston Harbor Project is the second largest public works project ever undertaken in New England. Construction for the Boston Harbor Project is complete. According to the MWRA, the total cost of the project was \$3.5 billion, not including the \$150 million for the processing of residuals (pellets) in Quincy.

The Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) program is proceeding. Approximately 65% of the next five-year capital will be dedicated to the CSO Program. It is anticipated that expenditures on the CSO program, which should be completed by 2010, will be a total of \$649 million.

The Water Works System Improvements Program ("WWSIP") consists of 55 projects. The MWRA will also construct 7 covered storage facilities to protect treated potable water (\$197 million). Total estimated expenditures for waterworks system projects for fiscal years 2004 through 2008 are \$441 million, with another \$328 million in spending forecast through fiscal year 2013.

Total spending for FY 2004-2013 has been reduced to the capital spending levels identified in the FY 2004 Capital improvement Program (CIP). MWRA staff eliminated, scaled down or delayed a net \$342 million in capital projects and phases. Spending levels in the capital budget have been reduced in order to address a necessary reality that the debt service costs associated with the CIP are a significant burden to MWRA's ratepayers. Approximately 80% of MWRA CIP spending has been mandated by court order or

regulation. The Advisory Board successfully recommended restructuring of \$647 million in debt, which reduced FY08 debt by \$43 million, as well as smoothing debt payments through 2017.

MWRA staffing, which was at 1754 in June of 1997, dropped to 1385 in June of 2002 and was further reduced to 1271 filled positions by June of 2005 in the continuing effort to control costs.

The MWRA Advisory Board recommended that the MWRA develop a System Master Plan as well as a System Expansion Plan.

The severe shortfall in state revenues compared to expenditures in FY 2003 required the elimination of the entire State Debt Service Assistance of \$47.2 million in FY 2003. In FY 2004 State Debt Assistance returned at a \$4.1 million level; in FY 2005 increased to \$8.7 million and in FY 2006 to \$20 million. The MWRA Advisory Board and staff continue to work with the state legislature and Governor's office to increase State Debt Service Assistance to help control debt service costs for the member communities. In FY 2007 State Debt Service Assistance to the Authority was \$18.9 million and in FY 2008 the Authority expects to receive \$17.25 million. As of June 2007, Belmont's combined sewer and water assessment by the MWRA for FY 2007 has increased \$327,915 over FY 2006, which translates to a combined increase in sewer and water assessments by the MWRA for Belmont of 6.3 % over FY 2006. Through the MWRA Advisory Board review assessments were reduced from an overall system wide proposed 6.4% rate increase to an overall 4.5% rate increase. Each community independently establishes retail sewer and water rates. When establishing local rates, community officials consider issues related to the pricing of services, level of cost recovery, and the local rate structure or methodology. By legislation, ratepayers and member communities have no choice except to pay to the MWRA the full amount assessed against the respective communities by the MWRA.

Detailed information on the Current Expense Budget and Capital Improvement Program is available online at www.mwra.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter J. Castanino, MWRA Advisory Board Member