Newsletter Spring 2009

Town of Hanover Proposes Converting Water Company to Municipal Utility

Currently water is supplied to the Town of Hanover by the Hanover Water Works Company (HWWCo) which is privately owned. The HWWCo is jointly owned by Dartmouth College (52.8%) and the Town of Hanover (47.2%), and is regulated by the New Hampshire Public Utility Commission (PUC).

The Town believes that it is in the best interests of the rate payers to municipalize these services and has approached the College to consider this change. Municipalization will allow for more efficient and cost effective operations and less expensive funding of future capital needs to the benefit of the rate payers. Municipalization will also allow Dartmouth College to disengage from an activity which is unrelated to its academic mission.

Municipalization will be accomplished by the HWWCo transferring to the Town the hard assets (filtration plant, reservoirs, distribution system, etc.) and the liabilities associated with those assets. The HWWCo will retain most of the land it currently owns, but will change its corporate ownership structure to 50/50 between the Town and College.

Nothing about this transaction will result in increased user rates. Anticipated savings will be used to create a capital reserve fund. There will be no impact on property taxes. Future increases in operating expenses may result in increased user rates.

This change requires the approval of the Trustees of Dartmouth College and of two Town Meetings. Town Meeting attendees will be asked to authorize the Town to formally pursue municipalization on May 12th. If approved, a Special Town Meeting will be held in the fall of 2009 to seek approval for the specific terms of municipalization. If approved, the change will be effective July, 2010. ~

What is a backflow device and why do I need one?

A backflow prevention device is used to protect water supplies from contamination or pollution. All water services are required to have a backflow prevention device. The size and type is dependent on the anticipated use. A typical residence would require a dual (non-testable) check device such as a Watts #7. Services with high contamination risks including but not limited to laboratories, medical facilities, maintenance areas and dormitories or Greek housing must have a Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) device such as a Watts #009. It is the responsibility of the owner to supply this device, provide for maintenance and supply repair parts. Sprinkler lines must be backflow protected as well with a testable double check device. **Please see the reverse side to learn more about backflow prevention and our requirements. ~**

Please note our change of mailing address :

194 Lebanon St
Hanover, NH 03755

If you pay your bill on line, please be sure that your bank has our new mailing address .

Where can you make payments? By mail, of course. Or, you can use the drop box in the vestibule area at Public Works, 194 Lebanon St. or at the Municipal Building, 41 South Main St! Both boxes are accessible 24/7. ~

Spring flushing program - We have not yet scheduled but stay tuned…. We will post it on our web page once it is set. We will also utilize the Reverse 911 messaging system to send a phone message a day or two before we are in your area. Questions - call 643 -3439 ~

Backflow Prevention In Our Distribution System

What is a backflow device and why is it important
A backflow preventer is a mechanical device that is easily installed in your water service inside the building. This can be done by a plumber. The device itself consists of a minimum of two check valves that will prevent water from your building being siphoned back into the distribution system during a low pressure event such as a line break or the need for a hydrant to be used for fire fighting or flushing purposes which can drain your furnace or hot water tank due to low water pressure.
Another very important reason for the backflow device is that without this device in place it is possible for contamination to be siphoned back into the distribution system from your building during the events described above. This, of course, would happen with no one's knowledge and has the potential to contaminate large sections, if not all of the distribution system.

Am I required to install a backflow device in my home or place of business?
The simple answer is yes. The New Hampshire Department of Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau has charged every public water supplier with the task of either eliminating or permitting all potential cross connections to the drinking water system. (NHDES Env-Ws 364 (b)(c))
This to means that any and all service connections to the potable water system shall have a working backflow device. The HWWCo Articles of Rules and Regulations notes two categories of backflow devices for use in the system: 1) low risk (typical of a residence) will use a Watts #7 dual check or equivalent, and 2) for high risk consumers (typically industrial/commercial or student housing) will use a Watts #009 Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ) device or equivalent. (HWWCo Articles of Rules and Regulations, Article 7 and Addendum 2)

I don't know if I have a backflow device installed now. What can I do?
You should contact the HWWCo office to schedule and appointment for one of our staff to come to your location to do an inspection. This is at no cost to you and only takes a couple of minutes. You will then be advised if you have a device or need to have one installed. We can also answer most of your questions at this time.
Most local plumbers have installed these devices for both home and industrial/commercial applications. They are familiar with the requirements and the protocol to follow. You must also contact the HWWCo office to schedule a second inspection after the installation is completed. In the case of the installation of an RPZ this visit allows us the opportunity to obtain the necessary data to enter into our system to track maintenance and testing. The final inspection also gives us the opportunity to be sure the device is installed and operating correctly. ~

Typical ¾-inch Home Dual Check Backflow Device

Typical 1-inch Industrial/Commerical Reduced Pressure Zone Backflow Device

Are you remodeling?

If you are remodeling, it is necessary to complete an Application for New/Modified Service. This allows us to determine the proper size meter to be installed based on the type and number of fixtures. There is no charge for this service or the water meter. You can pick up the application at our office or obtain it on our web page! ~

Current Water Rates issued in accordance with NH PUC Order #24,759 For bills rendered on or after July 1, 2007

<u>Quarterly Rates</u>

1. Initial Charge:

Size of Meter	Initial Charge per Quarter
1 1/2 inch & smaller	$47.250
2"	71.507
3"	131.878
4"	228.149
6"	469.068

2. Quantity of Water Used:
$2.552 per 100 cubic feet

Employee News:

John F. Dumas was promoted to Water Superintendent after Jim Stone retired last spring.

Kimberly Depelteau-Tracey was recently hired as Water Quality Technician. Kimberly comes with a strong background in engineering and construction. ~