

A MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM FOR WAITSFIELD

This is the first of three informational brochures to inform you of the Town's water and wastewater projects, with a planned bond vote at Town Meeting in March 2008. This brochure will focus on information related to the water project; the second will focus on the wastewater project; and the third will provide detailed financial information and answer any questions raised over the next few months.

THE NEED FOR A MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM

In Waitsfield Village and Irasville, and throughout Waitsfield, property owners need to provide for both water supply and septic disposal on an individual basis. Several decades ago, most buildings in the villages were fed with water from springs on the hillside to the west. As these were found unsafe or undependable, many people drilled wells. The drilled wells, although more reliable than springs, resulted in new issues such as proximity to nearby septic systems, underground fuel storage tanks, roads and highways, and stormwater runoff.

Stringent state rules have made the permitting of new well and septic sites as well as replacement of systems very difficult for most the village areas. A vast majority of the more than 150 properties within the proposed service area are currently served by a well that is not in compliance with the required isolation distances from their own or

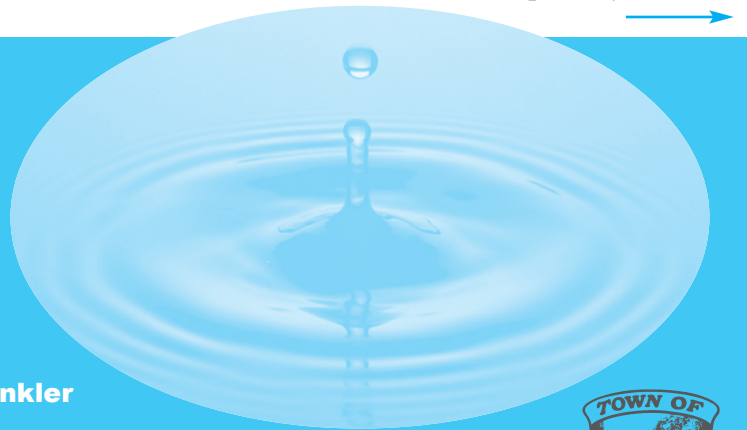
neighboring on-site water or wastewater systems. The Selectboard has identified this public health concern as an "emergent condition" that needs to be addressed.

A large number of rural Vermont communities have developed community water systems for their village centers, including Rochester, Bristol, Bethel, and Cabot. As a commercial center for the Mad River Valley, Irasville and Waitsfield Village need a safe, reliable water supply for residents, business owners, employees, students, and visitors to the stores, library, school, and restaurants.

Numerous studies have been conducted over the past 20 years by the Town and the Mad River Valley Planning District to evaluate the need and feasibility of a municipal water system. Development of a municipal water system to serve Irasville and Waitsfield Village has been identified as a priority in the

Water System Project Benefits:

- **Safe, proven, and reliable drinking water supply to all connected users.**
- **Firefighting capacity from new hydrant system.**
- **School and other public buildings will comply with State and Federal rules.**
- **Capacity for building owners to install sprinkler systems.**
- **Reduction in fire insurance premiums.**
- **Potential to expand on-site wastewater capacity on properties that currently use on-site water supply wells or springs.**
- **Infrastructure needed to support Village Growth Center; reduces pressure to grow in a "sprawl" fashion.**
- **Expansion of tax base, business retention, and potential for modest growth in Irasville and Waitsfield Village.**
- **Costs for construction and maintenance of the system will be paid for only by properties receiving a direct benefit of water supply and/or fire protection. The more users, the lower the cost per users.**



Waitsfield Town Plan for many years, not only to address public health concerns, but also to *protect water quality* of the Mad River, to *provide for economic development*, and to *reduce the potential for sprawl* outside these areas.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The project is currently planned to include these major components:

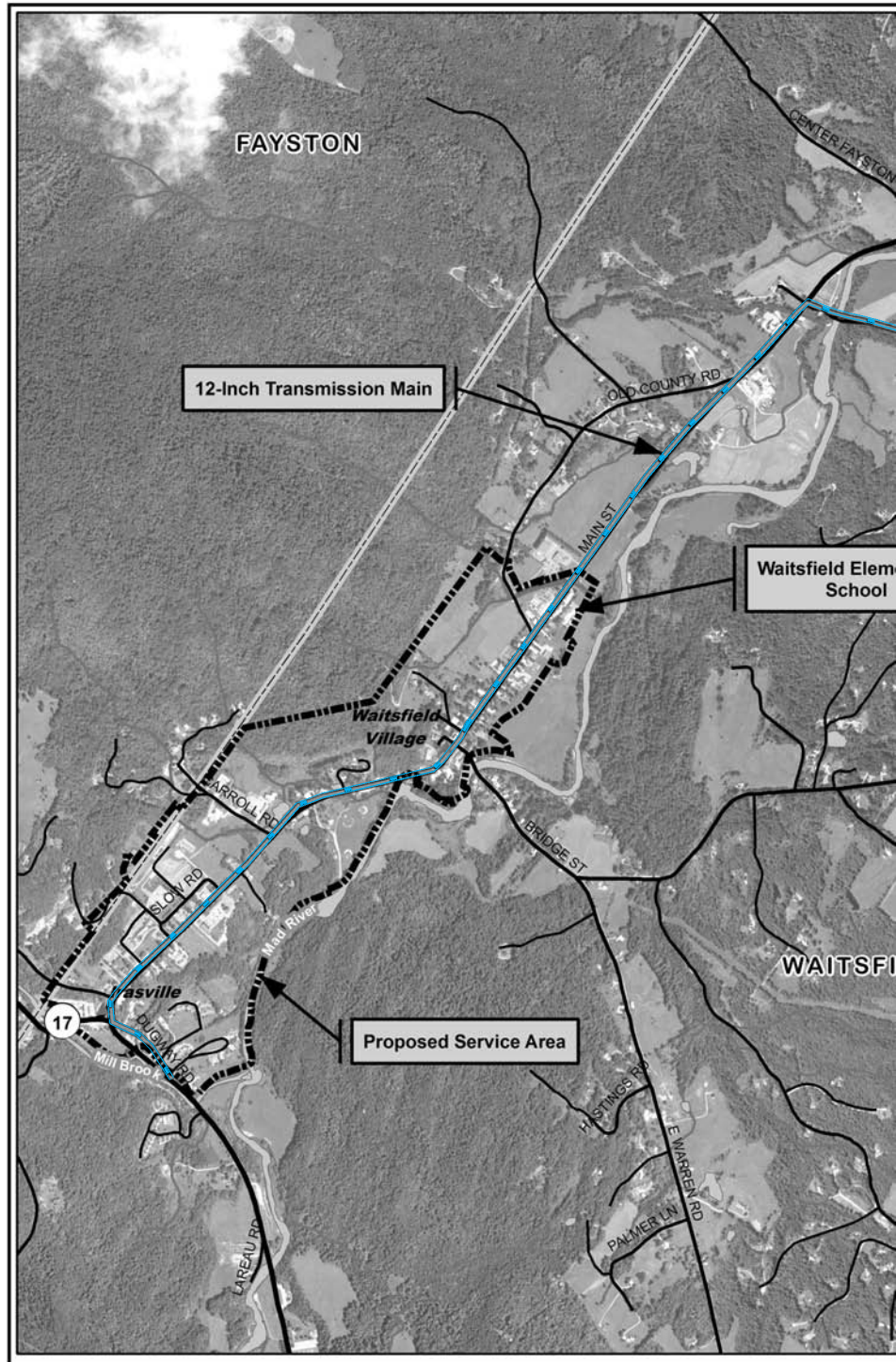
- Water supply well at Reed Road (estimated yield is approximately 200 gallons per minute);
- Transmission main along Long Road, East Road, and Bushnell Road to the Town-owned LeClair Site (former gravel pit);
- 500,000 gallon covered storage tank and treatment control building at the LeClair Site;
- 12-inch transmission main from the storage tank to North Road, along Tremblay Road, and Route 100 to the Village service area; and
- Distribution mains (mostly 12-inch), fire hydrants, and service connections for most properties in Irasville and Waitsfield Village.

PROPOSED SERVICE CONNECTION POLICIES

The Selectboard and Task Force have prepared the following guidance to help residents and property owners understand their options and responsibilities regarding public infrastructure.

Basic Principles and Assumptions

- Connecting to the system will be voluntary, except in a case where a health hazard exists and the property owner in the Service Area has no other viable means of correcting the hazard.
- The Town will install water mains within the right-of-way to as much of the Service Area as practical; some areas may be deferred due to funding limitations.



- The Town will install water service connections at its expense to the edge of the right-of-way for all properties that commit to service at the outset of the project.
- There may be circumstances where the public mains will require an easement.
- Property owners will be responsible for the portion of pipes, fittings, surface restoration, and plumbing connections on their own property.

IMPORTANT PROJECT SCHEDULE ITEMS

Residents need to be aware of and participate in the following activities:

November – December 2007

- For properties within the Service Area, receive and review a proposed Customer Connection Agreement.

- For some properties within the Service Area, review and agree to an easement agreement to allow public mains to be placed on or near your property.

January 2008

- Review Bulletin #2 focusing on the proposed municipal wastewater project.

February 2008

- Review Bulletin #3, which will focus on detailed cost information and respond to questions that are raised.

February 25, 2008

- Attend a public information meeting prior to March Town Meeting.

March 4, 2008

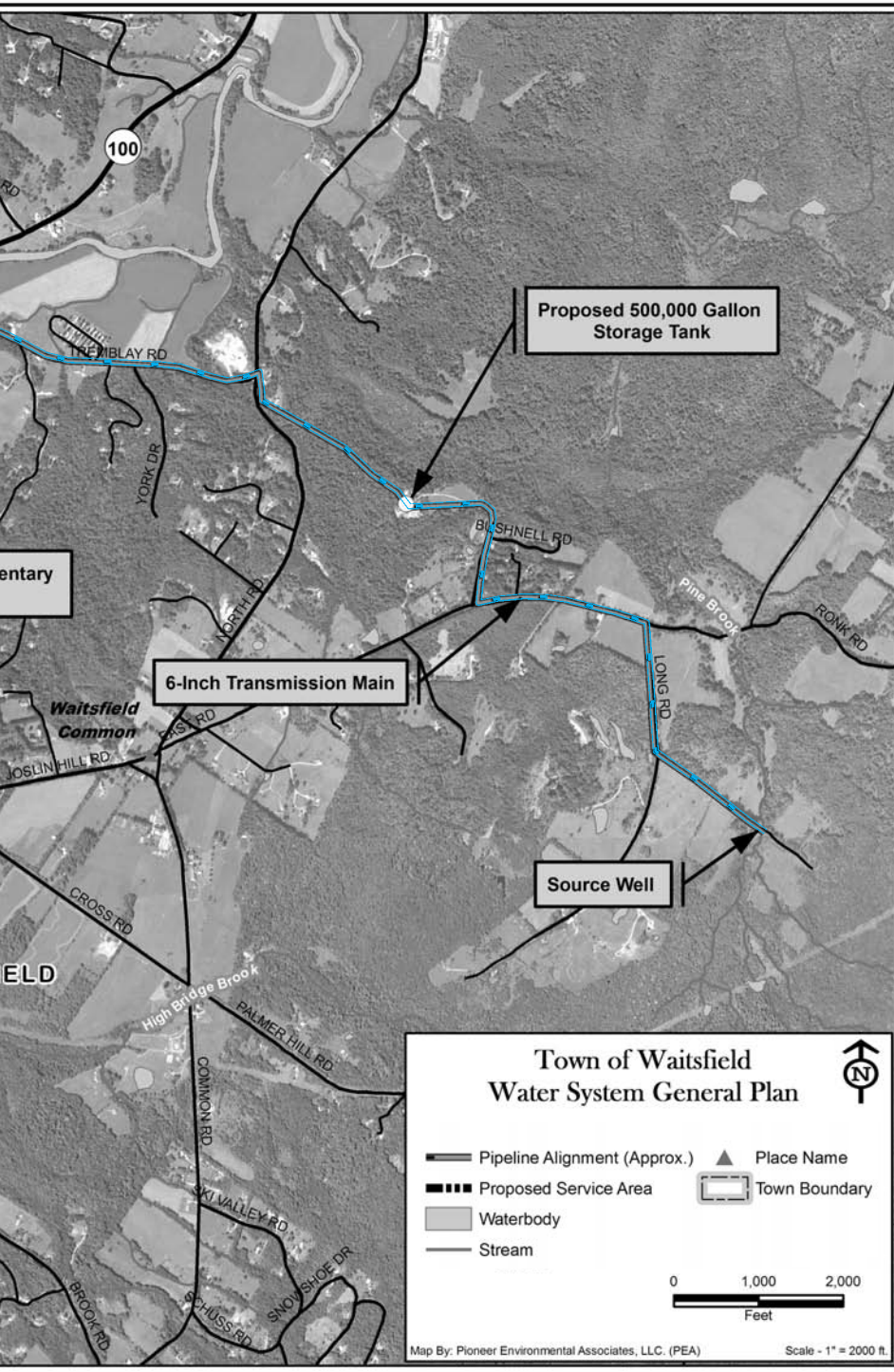
- Vote on Water and Wastewater Bond at Town Meeting.

At any time, if you have questions, please contact Michael Cunningham, Municipal Project Manager at 496-2218 or email to mpm@madriver.com.

For more information, visit the Town's Web site:

www.waitsfieldvt.us/water

"Only when the well runs dry do we learn the value of water." — Benjamin Franklin



- As part of the service connection fee, the Town will install a water meter inside the building. If a frost free location inside the building is unavailable, the property owner will be responsible for installing an external, below grade meter pit.
- Installation of connection work on private property will be done by pre-qualified contractors, will need to meet strict specifications, be tested, and certified acceptable by the Town.

**Town of Waitsfield
9 Bridge Street
Waitsfield, VT 05673**



Bulletin #1 Water Project

Please read this information brochure regarding this important municipal project for Waitsfield.



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