

SOUTH DEERFIELD WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT

95 SUNDERLAND ROAD
P.O. BOX 51
SOUTH DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01373
(413) 665-3540 FAX (413) 665-5565

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS - ANNUAL REPORT ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING – JUNE 02, 2021

Once again, the South Deerfield Water Supply District has seen another highly active and productive year with many accomplishments in the process of providing our community with a safe and reliable supply of drinking water.

This past year we have seen no staffing changes at the South Deerfield Water Supply District, with Dan Dion as our Superintendent. Our team was able to navigate through the challenges COVID-19 brought before us and the Board of Water Commissioners would like to extend our utmost appreciation to our staff for their dedication and hard work throughout this past year.

In FY2021 the South Deerfield Water Supply District saw many accomplishments – including the purchase of several new pieces of equipment. The addition of this new equipment included a min-excavator, skid steer and dump truck, these purchases have already provided us thousands of dollars in savings on projects and emergency repairs and allowed for flexibility and speed when completing this work. The Board of Water Commissioners along with our Superintendent and Treasurer took fiscally responsible and conservative approaches to the purchase of this equipment giving it great consideration and purchasing used equipment when it made sense, passing the savings on to our taxpayers. This past fiscal year we completed the design-phase and began the construction-phase of a required major chemical feed upgrade to our Filtration Plant and should be completing that work this upcoming fiscal year. This past year we were able to complete the planning process for another major water main replacement project that is planned, we have completed another phase of the upgrades to our Ridge Road Water Tank, took delivery of a new District Pickup Truck, we have applied for and received another MIIA grant and are currently working with our Forrester on a Timber Management Plan which we are expected to receive grant funding to cover the entire cost of. This year we also renewed our Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement with the Town of Amherst and the Amherst Department of Public Works to allow for emergency backup staffing and response if needed by either community.

With all these projects completed this year and with our ever-expanding day-to-day operation requirements, the quality and safety of our water remains our number one focus. We continue to make improvements to both our filtration system and distribution system, as well throughout our watershed and our reservoirs.



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Included with this report and presented at the Annual District Meeting for the voter's consideration is our Omnibus Budget and many articles related to spending. Once again, our Commissioners have worked tirelessly to ensure fiscal responsibility and long-term planning. The FY2022 Budget, beginning July 1, 2021, represents a slightly higher budget due to a major water main replacement project on Eastern Avenue and Graves Street – the remaining items in the budget represent a lower budget again this year. We have also been able to reduce the tax rates again this year and been able to maintain our current, low, water rates – with no increases.

As always, the South Deerfield Water Supply District looks forward to continuing our excellent working relationship with our area partners and wishes to extend our appreciation to the Town of Deerfield, the Deerfield Police Department, the Deerfield Highway Department, the Deerfield Fire/Water District, The South Deerfield Fire District, H.C. Kocot & Son's Inc., Howard Labs, the Town of Amherst, E.J. Prescott, Charette Services, Stiles Co., Inc. Marcotte Ford, Milton CAT, our State and Federal partners, and our many other vendors and most importantly the members of the District for your ongoing support.

Looking forward to this upcoming fiscal year we have another aggressive agenda of projects – including; completing the chemical feed upgrade at our Filtration Plant, a major water main replacement project on Eastern Avenue and Graves Street, upgrades to our Beacon software and hardware, completing the multi-year project of upgrading our Ridge Road Water Tank, completing our Timber Management Plan to allow us to seek and apply for other grant opportunities in the future, planning for future water main replacements, upgrades to our billing and budgeting system, continued capital improvements, continued emergency planning, and much more.

The Board of Water Commissioners and the South Deerfield Water Supply District team look forward to continuing to serve our community in this upcoming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
SOUTH DEERFIELD WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT

R. David Wells
Gary J. Stokarski
Shawn W. Bowman

