



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

*Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center • 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 • Telephone: (203) 794-8501*

Notice of Special Referendum

Dear Bethel Resident:

This letter is to inform you of an important town meeting and special referendum which will be held in early September. The purpose is to approve a loan to the Bethel Water Department that will be used to perform essential upgrades to Bethel's public water system. Specifically, the loan will pay for the necessary upgrades to the **Hoyt's Hill pump station**, a critical water pumping facility that provides water pressure for fire protection and residential water service to a large portion of the town, and for the replacement of existing municipal Well No.1 and Well No.2 located at the **Maple Avenue well field**, including associated process piping and electrical improvements.

The Hoyt's Hill pump station is quickly approaching the end of its service life, and water output from the Maple Avenue wells, which were installed in 1962, has diminished over time. The wells replacement project will bring the Maple Avenue wellfield back to its full permitted original capacity and will allow collection of additional data for a potential future wellfield expansion to add additional groundwater supply sources. Both projects are necessary to ensure an uninterrupted supply of drinking water as well as to continue to meet all state water quality regulations.

Important note: Neither of these two projects require any expenditure of Bethel taxpayer funds. There will be no impact on the town budget nor will they affect your property taxes in any way.

Yet, your vote is extremely important. Even though there is no use of public funds, the provisions of § C6-8 of the Town of Bethel Charter requires voter approval via referendum for any project in excess of \$1 million.

Important dates: The town meeting will be held on **Tuesday, Sept. 6th at 7:00pm** in Meeting Room A at the Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center. The referendum will be scheduled for **Tuesday, Sept. 13th.**

A short Q&A is provided below and on back:

Q: If local Bethel tax funds are not required, what is the source of funding?

A: Funding is provided by a loan from the Connecticut Department of Public Health Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, a program specifically designed to help small town water systems maintain critical infrastructure. The loan will be repaid through Water Department billings only. Taxpayer funds are not involved.

Q: What is the term of the loan?

A: The term of the loan is 20 years at an interest rate of 2.9%

Q: Does this affect all homes and businesses in town?

A: No, only customers of the Bethel Water Department are affected, which presently covers about half of the town's population. Homeowners with private wells and homes in the Stony Hill neighborhood, which is supplied by the Aquarion Water Company, are not affected in any way.

Q: But does the entire town have to vote on this proposal?

A: YES! All town voters must approve, not just customers of the Bethel Water Department. And it is extremely important that voter approval is secured. These two projects are not optional. A failure of the Hoyt's Hill pumps would result in an immediate loss of water to several neighborhoods, and high water demand this summer is already outpacing the Maple Avenue wells production capacity.

Q: When would the work begin and when would it be completed?

A: The contractor for both projects is ready to begin immediately upon voter approval, with completion expected within 6 months for the Maple Ave wellfield project and 12 months for the Hoyt's Hill pump station upgrade project.

Q: What is the expected cost?

A: The Hoyt's Hill pump station upgrade is \$1,367,075; the Maple Avenue well field improvements will be \$995,867.

If you have other questions, please call the Bethel Water Department at 203-794-8549. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.