

FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE

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PRESS RELEASE

SPECIAL REFERENDUM ANNOUNCED

(August 10, 2016) The Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance have scheduled a special town meeting on September 6th to approve a critical infrastructure project for the Bethel Water Department. The town meeting will be followed by a referendum, tentatively scheduled for September 13th.

The purpose is to obtain voter permission for the Bethel Public Utilities Commission to accept a state loan to fund critically needed upgrades to the Bethel water distribution system. The loan will be used to fund replacing and upgrading a key pumping station and to construct new wells to improve water supply. Funding for the projects will be provided by a state Department of Public Health low interest loan for small-town water systems.

The loan will be repaid through water rates over a 20-year period. No taxpayer funds are involved and there is no impact on the town budget or on property tax rates. Because the value of the loan exceeds \$1 million, town charter requires voter approval via referendum before work can begin.

Both upgrades are necessary to continue to provide clean, safe drinking water that meets all state health standards, improve fire fighting capabilities and allow for new business development at the town's business park.

For questions, please contact Bethel Public Works Department at 203-794-8549.

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