



### Aging Water Meters

- There are approximately 1,400 water meters on our system.
- Residential meters currently installed from three different manufacturers:
  - Badger
  - Rockwell
  - Sensus
- The majority of the meters in the field are over 30 years old

(cont)

- The most recent deployment of “new” meters was 15+ years ago.
  - Canfield Ave.
  - Valley View Drive
  - Janet Drive
  - Edith Place
  - Allen Lane
- Scattered installation of new meters as required when old ones begin to leak or just give out.
  - Approximately 12 per year
  - 180 meters in the last 15 years (12 %)

### Visible Revenue Reduction

- In 2006, Mine Hill Township billed for 76,808,903 gallons of water.
- In 2011, Mine Hill Township billed for 64,334,983 gallons of water.
- Drop of 16% over this 5 year period even with additions to the system!

### Metering Water

- Positive Displacement Meters
  - Water runs into the meter through a chamber (known amount) and out of the meter into the home
  - Spins a dial like a car’s odometer to capture water usage for us to read

### Meter Problems

- Low Flow
  - As the meter ages, the rotating disk (like a water wheel) inside the meter body wears down
  - If the water draw inside a home is low (leaky faucet or toilet) it will not be detected by the meter
- Readings
  - Missed reads
  - Wrong reads
  - Low reads
  - Estimates
  - Meter tampering

### Recommendations

1. Finalize repairs to items listed in leak detection report.
2. Replacing water meters will achieve:
  - Capture more accurate usage.
  - Read every meter, every time.
  - Detect leaks in home earlier, avoiding water loss.
  - Cover labor costs by reducing time spent in field reading meters.
  - Streamline billing allowing time for more in-depth analysis of accounts.
  - Reduce water theft.

### New Metering System

- Radio Read Meters
  - Eliminate estimated reads
  - Immediately detect tampering
  - Capture accurate water use
  - Moves technician to a pro-active partner in data collection and problem solving
  - State guidelines for water loss
  - Federal water lead level guidelines

### Replacement Process

- Oldest meters first!
  - Identify replacements block by block
  - Or hire a contractor to replace ALL the meters in 4-8 weeks
- Communicate to homeowners the need for personal compliance to existing Ordinances regarding:
  - Internal shut off in place
  - Pressure reducing valve in place

### Potential Expense

## TOWNSHIP

- Meter cost?
- Additional manpower to complete project in a timely fashion
- Plumber on standby for repairs if needed

## HOMEOWNER

- Meter cost?
- Bring existing plumbing to current standards.

### How do we pay for it?!

- Bond for entire project
- Lease to own option – Lease the cost of paying for the meters and installation

*Financially creative mechanism that allows for quicker payoff of the financing thereby reducing the cost of the money to the Water Utility*

*Well-water users are not part of any of this discussion*

### Estimated costs for 1400 Meter replacements

- Approximately \$215.00 per meter.
- Approximately \$60.00 - \$75.00 per meter to install by outside vendor
- \$275.00 to \$290.00 per meter installed
- Total project cost \$406,000.00
- Miscellaneous expenses \$25,000.00 "ish"
- *Estimated 2 ½ - 3 year debt elimination*
- *\$430,000 divided by \$162,000 = 2.75 years*

### Putting the plan in action

- Send out notices to all property owners on affected street advising them that they should bring the home to standards
- Have vendor change out every meter within 8 weeks which will increase savings immediately instead of a slow roll-out method
- Penalize homeowners who are noncompliant.

### Benefits and Results of this Project

1. Reduce water loss below 10% to meet State guidelines.
2. Eliminate need to borrow money to balance Water Utility Budget
3. Reduce Water department labor by 32 FTE days annually through electronic reading of meters
4. Maintain our infrastructure in a more budgetary & environmentally friendly way.

#### OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

##### Mr. Tim Beyrant, Lake Shore Drive

Mr. Beyrant asked how the Beach and Parks would fall under the restructured Recreation Committee. Mr. Morris responded that the Beach and Parks will notice no difference in the way they function other than purchasing.

##### Mr. Steve Severud, Long Valley

Mr. Severud provided clarification for his invoices removed from the bills list at the last meeting and asked that they be placed back on the next bills list for approval.

#### CLOSED SESSION

##### Resolution 024-12 Authorizing the Township Council to Meet in Closed Session

A motion was made by Mr. Bloom and seconded by Mr. Coranato to introduce the resolution.

Seeing no discussion from the Council or the Public, the roll was called and the resolution was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Bloom; Mr. Coranato; Ms. Kanzenbach; Mr. Pepperman; Mr. Willis

Nays: none

Absent: none

Abstentions: none

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 of the Open Public Meetings Act permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MINE HILL, COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of the specified subject matter(s) set forth in paragraph 2 below.
2. The subject matter(s) to be discussed are as follows:
  - Litigation – Township vs. Bartek
  - Personnel Matter – Specify
  - Contract Negotiation – Specify
  - Attorney-Client Privilege – Specify
  - Collective Bargaining Agreement – Specify
  - Other – as authorized by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 – Specify
3. Minutes of the closed session and any other information required to be shown in the minutes by law, shall be promptly available to the public when the matters discussed are resolved, to the extent that making such matters public shall not be inconsistent with section N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.
4. The Township Council may come back into open session and take further action.
5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

At the conclusion of closed session discussion, upon motion made and seconded, the Council returned to open session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Coranato and seconded by Mr. Pepperman to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 pm. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda G. Macchia, RMC  
Mine Hill Municipal Clerk

Approved on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

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Council President