

WALPOLE UTILITIES - 2008

2008 was a year most of us will not soon forget, the economic downturn created spiraling costs that made most industries turbulent to say the least. Cost increases hit us from all directions, from double digit price increases for materials to the skyrocketing electric rates needed to keep the pumps turning. These increases have made it necessary to halt our work on upgrades funded by rates for the foreseeable future. With this said, the silver lining could be the likely availability of federal money for "shovel ready" infrastructure projects. Walpole has been fortunate enough to have worked with the engineering firm Hoyle & Tanner on upgrades to our aging and failing sewer pump stations. In regards to the inevitable need for their replacement in the future, we are optimistic some financial help will be available as this project grows near. We plan on pursuing grants to aid in the completion of our most vital projects.

We have been upgrading our water meters over the last two years, with close to 150 meters already installed. The new meters are radio read and prevent the meter readers from having to enter people's homes and basements. If you have not had your meter upgraded and would like to schedule a time for this work to happen, please give us a call so we can schedule.

Each year with the spring utility bills, we send a copy of the Consumer Confidence Report. This report is an informational mailing which is similar to the label on food and beverage products and contains information about our water system, the wells and their operation. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us through the Selectmen's Office at 756-3672.

Respectively Submitted,

Mark Houghton

