



THE FUTURE OF OUR WATER & SEWER ASSETS Town Public Informational Meetings

Over the past three years a group of volunteers called the "Asset Evaluation Team" (AET) has studied the operation of the Town's Water and Sewer Assets. In studying the systems, they looked in great detail into both the physical Assets (the buildings, pipes, etc.) and the economics of the operation from a user rate and budget perspective. The results of the AET's investigation illustrated that the system was in a difficult financial situation. Revenue was in decline, expenses were rising and infrastructure was aging. As a result user fees had also risen to very high levels.

An RFP (Request for Proposal) was issued publicly that led to responses from companies that would be willing to purchase and operate the Assets. The highest bid was submitted by Aquarion Water Company for \$8,000,000.

The AET has recommended to the Board of Selectmen that we, The Town of New Hartford, should consider selling these Assets to Aquarion as they believe all residents will benefit by creating a partnership with this private company who can operate the systems more efficiently than the Town. The Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), made up primarily of residents who live in homes serviced by public water and sewer and who pay significant fees to support its operation, has agreed with the AET and has voted to support the recommendation made to the Board of Selectmen that New Hartford residents should consider selling these Assets.

SHOULD THE TOWN'S WATER & SEWER ASSETS BE SOLD?

Learning about the history of the operation, the age, condition and location of the assets, as well as what it currently costs to operate these systems is a long, complicated discussion, but it's one that we need to have with our residents.

As such, the Board of Selectmen has requested that the AET members schedule three "Public Information Sessions" to inform residents of the AET's findings and their recommendations and most importantly to answer your questions.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS FOLLOWED BY Q & A WILL BE HELD:

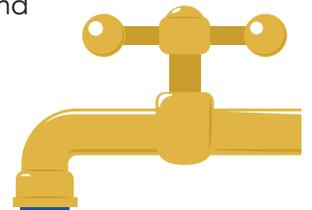
THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 20, 2020 - 7PM - NEW HARTFORD TOWN HALL

THURSDAY - MARCH 5, 2020 - 7PM - NEW HARTFORD ELEMENTARY

THURSDAY - MARCH 19, 2020 - 7PM - ANN ANTOLINI SCHOOL

To help residents learn about this proposal, the Town has placed many relevant documents on the town website for your review. The information can be found by going to the town website at:

www.newhartfordct.gov/asset-sale-information



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

For many years, the public water and sewer systems have been operated by contracted operators under the charge of the WPCA. Aquarion Water Company has been operating the sewer operation for the WPCA for several years. Considering a change in the operation from a "lease" agreement to a "sale" agreement can generate many questions and

concerns from both users and non-users alike. Will there be good service? What will happen to rates? What if my home needed to connect to the system? The AET has taken many hours to assemble a presentation to highlight the details of their proposal and are willing to answer your questions. **All we need is YOU!**

The cost of public water and public sewer in New Hartford is a serious concern to many families. The decision to sell (or not to sell) town Assets is one that affects all town residents – even if you don't live in an area serviced by water or sewer.

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO BE A PART OF THIS IMPORTANT DISCUSSION

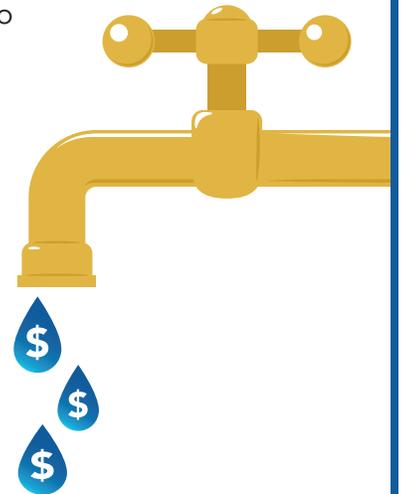
Thursday - February 20, 2020 - 7pm - New Hartford Town Hall

Thursday - March 5, 2020 - 7pm - New Hartford Elementary

Thursday - March 19, 2020 - 7pm - Ann Antolini School

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Please remember, no individual Town Board or Commission can sell any Town Property without approval of the voters of the Town of New Hartford.



No town wide referendum has been scheduled to date as the Board of Selectmen want to hear from all town residents on this important issue. Please attend the meetings and ask questions. WE NEED YOU TO PARTICIPATE AND EXPRESS YOUR OPINION ON THIS IMPORTANT TOWN ISSUE.

Town of New Hartford
530 Main Street – P.O. Box 316
New Hartford, CT 06057

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