



Forum to Discuss Water & Sewer Expansion Projects

Littleton voters are invited to a public forum to learn about two projects to improve water and sewer service. The forum will be held Tuesday, April 25, 2023, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the Community Room of the Littleton Police Department, 500 Great Road, Littleton. The forum will also be live streamed by Littleton Cable Access TV.

The Littleton Town Meeting will be asked to approve expansion of the Littleton Water system and to authorize additional funding to offset rising construction costs impacting the sewer expansion project.

The first project, Article 22 on the Town Meeting warrant, combines the expansion of the water system to serve a portion of Boxborough and the development of a new well on Taylor Street.

Littleton Water has been asked to expand service to part of Boxborough where private drinking water wells are polluted. This \$13.2 million expansion would be paid for by the new Boxborough customers and a \$6.5 million commitment from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's salt remediation program.

Because this project qualifies for a zero-interest state loan, LELWD proposes including the development of a new well on Taylor Street as part of the project. The well would serve all LELWD customers, with an estimated 85% of the water used by Littleton consumers and 15% by Boxborough.

The \$6 million new well project would be funded through water rates paid by all water users who benefit and by one-time connection fees charged to new Boxborough customers. By combining the new well source with the expanded service to Boxborough, Littleton users will pay about \$3 million of the \$6 million cost.

If the new well were developed as a stand-alone project, without Boxborough, the project cost to Littleton would escalate. Littleton water users would be responsible for the entire \$6 million project cost. Without the Boxborough component, the well project would not qualify for a zero-interest state loan. When bonded for 30 years at 5.5% interest, the final cost to Littleton ratepayers would be more than \$11 million.

Also at the Town Meeting, Article 23 will ask voters to approve an increase in the construction budget for the expanded Littleton Common Sewer System. As rising construction costs have impacted municipal projects across the state, the low bid to install sewer lines in Littleton resulted in a budget shortfall.

The Town Meeting will be asked to authorize borrowing an additional \$4.4 million for the project to be paid for by users of the 243,000-gallons-per-day sewer system. Only sewer system users and state and federal grants are paying for the project.

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