**Waterville Estates Village District**

**Water Ordinance**

The Village District has adopted a Water Ordinance at its August 16, 2021 Public Hearing. This is a big step forward for the Village District, as this is the first Water Ordinance adopted. Please note that the Village District has not operated its Water Department in compliance with New Hampshire revenue regulations for water systems since its inception. The Commissioners would like to thank the hard work of the Roads and Water Committee and our consultant engineer Dubois & King for their effects in bringing this Water Ordinance forward. Here are certain changes that this ordinance will bring:

1. Our current water operation utilizes a $200 Water Fee along with property taxes to cover the entire cost of water operations. As stated, this is not in compliance with New Hampshire regulation for funding water operations. The revised ordinance establishes a “user-fee” basis to replace the prior system. Since the Village District is not metered at present, the rate will consist of two parts. One component of the user fee is based upon the fixed overhead that is charged to all properties able to be on the water system. The second component of the user fee is based upon consumption for variable costs. Since there are no meters, this utilization use is based upon the number of bedrooms plus one for calculation of all developed properties. These charges will replace the $200 Water Fee, and eliminate the property tax funding.
2. Municipal properties (Community Center and Lodge/Ski Area) will be metered, and will pay according to usage.
3. The Village District will contract with a preferred vendor to purchase meters for Village District developed and undeveloped properties. All new properties will be required to have one of these meters installed before obtaining a certificate of occupancy. Existing property owners may install a meter if they wish. Purchase cost will be borne by the property owner. It will be up to property owners to contract with the appropriate professionals for the installation of such meters. When enough properties are metered, those properties will be switched to a gallon-usage fee instead of the bedroom formula fee.
4. The new water system will stand on its own in the municipal budget. Any surpluses at the end of the year will accumulate in the fund to be used only for future water system costs or future reductions in rates.

As stated, this is a very important step forward for the Village District, bringing us into regulatory compliance, and creating a system that is equitable to all property owners. Staff will be working with the Roads and Water Committee to calculate the entire cost of the water system, and a continuation of the Public Hearing will be held on September 1, 2021 to adopt the specific amounts for units. Don’t hesitate to bring any questions to may have to staff or Roads and Water Committee members. This Water Ordinance creates a compliant, sustainable, and equitable water system for the Village District.

Respectfully Submitted

Maureen Patti, Commission Chair

John Herlihy, Commissioner

Gerry Panuczak, Commissioner