

This letter is intended to update the RFD1 Fire District membership on current issues developments, and challenges within the District. Although our water supply remains plentiful and of excellent quality compared to other water systems, areas of significant concern exist.

Increasing State Oversight

- The State of Vermont is increasing scrutiny of all water systems; this includes more requirements for infrastructure and tighter regulations for operations
- This means higher costs for operator support, treatment, tests, and regulation compliance

Aging Infrastructure

- Overall costs of operating the District have increased dramatically in recent years — some parts of the system are 70+ years old — parts, repairs, and labor costs have quadrupled since 1980
- Recently, a system pump failed — replacement cost in 1980 was \$900; cost today is \$3600!
- Water usage rates have not kept up with inflation and the increasing cost of operating our water system

After Universal Metering, New Rate Structure = Fair Billing

- With metered use, rate structure changes were required — new rates begin March 1, 2018
- Billing uses a generous base rate with unit charges for usage over base amount; unit charges over the base rate vary based upon residential, multi-use, or commercial; see enclosed sheet
- Rates are still much lower than Randolph rates – for better water!
- Future rate increases may be needed as infrastructure and operational costs are known

RFD1 Prudential Committee (PRUCOM) and Other Officer Positions

- Ownership of the District water system shared between Vermont Technical College and RFD1
- RFD1 is led by 3 residents elected by the membership to the PRUCOM.
- Other elected officers - Clerk, Treasurer, Engineer - support District operations and administration; most positions have been filled by the same people for many years – some will retire soon.

The Future of RFD1

- Many factors may put the future of our 79-year old District in jeopardy!
- RFD1 is not part of the fire department; the District operates as an independent municipality with no outside help from the State or Town of Randolph
- With just 52 District “customers”, few people are available or interested in serving
- RFD1 charter gives it unique power to control development, ordinances, and zoning
- Without the involvement of more volunteers, options for the future of the District include the takeover of RFD1 by VTC, its merger with the Town of Randolph, or sale to a private operator
- These options will mean higher costs, less quality service, and far less control over our water

Best Option

- Maintain current service, keep control over sources and quality, maintain reduced cost of water through increased community involvement, volunteering, and support
- Bottom line: more member involvement is urgently needed to properly sustain our District!

Monthly Meetings Open To Public

- Meetings held second Thursday each month, 7pm, Red Schoolhouse — Please plan to attend!
- Please visit www.rfd1.org for more District information and to review new usage rate details

Sincerely

RFD1 Prudential Committee