

**Report of the Water Commissioners
To the Citizens of
The West Boylston Water District
2003**

In Compliance with the laws establishing the West Boylston Water District, the Board of Water Commissioners hereby submits it's 64th Annual Report.

At the annual Town Election, held on April 1, 2003, Stanley Szczurko and Robert Bryngelson were elected. The following results were posted:

<u>Water Commissioner -3 years</u>	<u>Precinct 1</u>	<u>Precinct 2</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stanley Szczurko	244	308	552
Robert Bryngelson	204	280	484
John J. Swalec	190	287	477

At the Annual Meeting of the District, held on May 28, 2003, Mr. Carter Hunt was elected to a one-year term as moderator. In addition Mr. Robert Bryngelson was nominated and elected to the position of District Clerk.

During the year of 2003 the district was faced with some difficult financial decisions to make. The Oakdale Well facility became the site of an accidental mercury spill do to equipment failure and had to be taken off line for several months while a very expensive remediation took place.

Thanks to the efforts of our staff and engineers, we were able to keep a lid on the spiraling costs. The Commission voted a one time assessment to cover these costs which while difficult for some citizens, appeared to be the most economical and fair method of recouping these costs. The District has continued to monitor and evaluate its operations and processes to insure such a catastrophe can be prevented in the future and has developed new operation and maintenance manuals for each well site.

The District has continued to take advantage of the ongoing sewer project by contracting the replacement of water services with the sewer contractor. This will minimize the chances of failures due to the disturbing of these services during excavation. Exciting new technology improvements were approved by the District with the design and installation of the SCADA System. This technology will allow us to monitor and adjust the operation of the pumps and chemical feed equipment at our pump stations from one location. It will also record and develop a history of pumping data for future improvements to our infrastructure. We also took the first step in our phased Water Supply and Distribution Master Plan by the replacement of approximately 2500 linear

feet of 12 inch water main and services on Crescent St. to Thomas St.. This improvement eliminated a severe fire flow deficiency for our public schools in that area as well as provided a much needed upgrade to the aging water main. The District will soon be undertaking the first phase of our meter replacement program. This program will allow us to upgrade all of the meters within the system to a more modern and efficient system for drive-by meter reading using computers and radio technology. This will also help the District with the un-accounted for water issues and increase revenues.

During the past fiscal year there have been major changes in our management team as well. We have moved from a contract services management team, Weston and Sampson Services Inc., to appointing Davis Proctor to the position of Superintendent. Davis has previously worked for the Town of Plymouth as Water Superintendent. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our team. We hope that you will contact him should you have any questions or concerns about your water system.

The Board of Water Commissioners would like to take this opportunity to thank the employees of the District for the extra effort they extended this past year to ensure a safe and dependable supply of drinking water to the Town of West Boylston. Without their professional expertise and considerable extra efforts, the accomplishments of the past year would not have been achieved and we, as a District, would not have enjoyed the level of service we have come to expect year after year.

The upcoming year promises to be a year full of exciting changes and challenges. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our staff for their tireless efforts in providing you with a safe and high quality water supply system. We would also like to thank you the District members, that continue to support us as the West Boylston Water District, which without that support one more piece of your individual voice in shaping our town's future would be lost forever.

On behalf of the Commission:
Respectfully Submitted
John S. Wilson
Chairman