



Memorandum

To: Nathan Poore, Town Manager
From: Jay Reynolds, Public Works Director
Re: Middle Road Project and Public Water
Date: January 19, 2017

As you know, the public meeting Tuesday night occurred for the Middle Road project near the Cumberland town line. There were a number of comments and questions from the public about extending public water while the road is under construction.

There are some items that various members of the public asked for the Town to consider and/or offer a follow-up. I have researched the Water System Study and note that The Town Council adopted the report, and that staff did not recommend to the Council spending \$750k to install new water mains on Middle Road.

As the design of Middle Road moves forward, I will need to have confirmed that this position still stands as such. If there is consideration of a water line extension, engineering would need to begin in order to incorporate this work into the road project. Because the Portland Water District would be designing and building specifications for this work, it is not likely that a combined road/water project would be able to stay on its' current schedule of construction in 2017. I am not sure how long it would be delayed because we need to coordinate the timing to avoid multiple major road construction projects in the area. Please recall that the Town and MaineDOT are coordinating the following projects during the next few years:

1. Middle, Longwoods and Woods Road intersection within the next two years
2. Falmouth, Bucknam, and Middle Road intersection within three years
3. Bucknam and I-295 North ramp intersection signalization within three years
4. Replace I295 bridges on Lunt and Bucknam Roads within five years

Here is a summary of follow-up items as a result of the meeting. I have a sign in sheet if you decide to provide a response directly to the residents. They are as follows:

1. The estimate of 750k, along with the cost-per-foot, and total length of pipe, was questioned and asked that the Town look at this again and/or refine this estimate. Relating to this: Cumberland is currently receiving bids for their water main extension. This information could be used to get refined costs.
2. The number of houses that could be served and/or possibly financially participate in a water main extension was questioned. I.e., are the houses on private ways (Jackson Way) that don't front along Middle Road being counted toward the total amount of potential connections?

3. A resident asked if the Town had looked at the vacant tracts of land for potential development and/or conceptually looked at buildout scenarios (that may further justify the water main extension).
4. A resident inferred that either the USDA Grant or some other grant opportunities exist. They were going to research this and send the Town follow-up information.
5. Residents implied that there are water quality issues with existing wells, which is contrary to the report. Does this change the Town's perspective?
6. A resident implied that some have water pressure issues, and that water pressure is an issue for fire prevention and hydrant maintenance.
7. A show of hands exercise was done for Public Water interests. The question was posed:
 - a. If a water main was installed in Middle Road, would you connect to the water service?
 - i. Yes: 8
 - ii. No/Don't Know: 0
 - iii. Already connected to public water: 3

This question did not entertain any funding scenarios of the water main.

8. I'll add Councilor Farber's comment/statement at the meeting: If a water main was proposed to be paid by the Town and included in the Middle Road project, does the charter look at these two as one project? Thus, exceeding the 1M mark and requiring voter referendum.

In Summary, it appears the residents along Middle Road continue to be interested in having the Town explore public water along Middle Road. Please forward this memo along to any interested party.