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DOCUMENT 26

CITY OF HAVERHILL

In Municipal Council February 14 2012

ORDERED:

That the following November 1, 2011 recommendations of the Water Supply Committee be and are hereby adopted for implementation by the Water Department, subject to appropriation where necessary by the Mayor and City Council:

1. The City should formally track the water supply surplus and deficit on an annual basis and incorporate this information into its annual statistical report. This data will be invaluable and a necessary tool for planning for a new source.

2. The City must continue with and expand its water conservation and leak detection efforts to include:

   a. The replacement of plumbing fixtures as needed in municipal buildings in compliance with the requirement of the WMA permit.
   b. Public education programs to inform the public about water conservation methods. The programs should include an educational program geared to elementary school-aged children.
   c. Consider the feasibility of offering commercial and residential water audits.
   d. In anticipation of changes to the City's WMA permits requiring conservation-based rate structures, evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of a conservation-based rate structure.
   e. Change the WMA requirement of leak detection to a three-year cycle from the current two-year cycle.

3. The City should continue its efforts to reduce unaccounted-for water and reduce residential per capita use. As part of these efforts:

   a. Continue to develop improved methods for tracking unmetered water used for municipal purposes such as firefighting, street sweeping, water main breaks, hydrant flushing, and other municipal uses.

   b. Continue refining methods of calculating residential per capita day estimates.

4. Continue and increase efforts to require compliance with the City's large water meter testing ordinance, which includes testing of large meters and replacement of inaccurate and improperly sized meters.

5. Continue the program to identify and replace inaccurate residential water meters.

6. Because of the uncertainty of future regulatory requirements, unknown climate impacts, economic fluctuations, competition for water resources, and limited reserve water supply capacity, we recommend that the City continue and expand current efforts to develop the Merrimack River as the City's next water supply. The Merrimack River is the only large capacity source that can meet the City's current and future water needs. Additionally:

   a. Recognizing the public perception that comes with considering the use of the Merrimack River, we do not recommend any supply alternatives that involve a direct withdrawal.
   b. We recommend that the only method of withdrawal from the river to be considered consist of a groundwater supply system, which withdraws water indirectly from the Merrimack River taking advantage of the natural filtering capabilities of sediments.
   c. We recommend that efforts to develop the Merrimack River include a long-term vision that includes provisions for the city's build-out conditions.
   d. We recommend that planning, engineering, and permitting for a withdrawal from the Merrimack River begin in earnest in fiscal year 2012 and continue until a permit to withdraw has been obtained. The planning, engineering, and permitting process is expected to take 3 to 6 years.

REFER TO PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
Attest: _____
City Clerk

IN CITY COUNCIL: May 29 2012
PASSED
Attest: _____
City Clerk

APPROVED:
_____
Mayor