



BOROUGH OF SPOTSWOOD

Office of the Mayor

77 Summerhill Road, Spotswood, NJ 08884

P (732) 251-0700 F (732) 416-1820

**Jackie Palmer
Mayor**

Extension 821

jpalmer@spotswoodboro.com

April 4, 2022

Dear Residents:

I am writing to advise you of the hard work I have observed our Borough employees undertake during my term as Mayor to improve our Borough infrastructure. As a Borough resident for more than two decades, I fully anticipated the need to focus on infrastructure projects in my role as Mayor; however, I could never have anticipated the substantial amount of improvements that is required to address the outdated and neglected Water and Sewer System here in Spotswood. While my administration has been swift to take action on the improvements, it was immediately clear that the Water and Sewer System had been neglected for far too long.

Throughout these past few months, our Treatment Center has gone offline to make repairs until Allied Construction can make the improvements, forcing us to rely solely on the agreement we have with East Brunswick to provide us water. Currently, we are 100% on East Brunswick water. During the winter months, these service disruptions have had limited or no impact on the budget, and we have been able to prevent a rate increase in water and sewer usage. I therefore wanted to take this opportunity to advise you of the improvements undertaken to our Water and Sewer System since January 2021.

- Contracted with Remington & Vernick Engineers (RVE) to conduct a Water & Sanitary Utility System Assessment including a system-wide evaluation and capital plan. RVE is one of the oldest established consulting firms in the country and has successfully completed thousands of planning, engineering and capital infrastructure improvement projects, to provide Engineering Services.
- Our Water & Sewer and Public Works Departments, Borough Engineer, Center State Engineering, either themselves or with the assistance of qualified vendors, have made water main improvements, welding improvements to our only operating Water Treatment Plant on Daniel Road, and updates and systems performance maintenance like hydrant flushing and laboratory testing to ensure we continue to distribute healthy and safe drinking water.
- Secured bonding for nearly \$1.5 million for improvements to our Daniel Road Treatment Center, including new filters and a new well, that has limited impact to the municipal budget offering us the ability to introduce a budget in March 2022 that sees a flat adjustment to municipal taxes and water and sewer rates from the prior year.
- Earlier this year, we approved a contract with Pumping Services, Inc. to provide improvements to the Red Bank Road Pump Station. Funding had been approved for this in 2019, yet after review by my administration, it was found no contract was ever entered into for this work yet the conditions of the pump station only continued to deteriorate.
- In 2021 we approved a contract with Allied Construction Group to provide upgrades and improvements at the Daniel Road Water Treatment Plant, specifically to replace our two nearly 50-year-old ion exchange treatment vessels, essentially water filters, that have reached the end of their useful life and

which several attempts to repair vessel leaks have been unsuccessful. Unfortunately, due to significant global supply chain delays, this work is not anticipated to be completed until the Summer of 2022.

There has been a tremendous amount of effort undertaken by the Borough to address our water and sewer needs to avoid a public emergency; however, I must now reach out to you for your help as we approach the warmer months to ask you to please be mindful with your seasonable water usage (i.e., use of lawn irrigation systems, filling of pools, and the like).

I am slightly concerned that the Borough's water consumption could potentially rise above the amount of water we are permitted to receive from East Brunswick. If this rise were to occur, the Borough would be required to purchase more water from East Brunswick, who purchases its water from Middlesex Water Company. This potential additional purchase could result in a significant financial burden that the Borough may not be able to sustain without a correlated water and sewer rate increase.

My administration has proposed a budget that does not include any increase in municipal fees for water and sewage. My administration is looking to implement a long-term solution to our water and sewer needs; however, to prevent an increase in municipal fees in the near future, I must ask all the residents to be mindful of their water consumption and partake in water conservation efforts until the improvements to our Treatment Plant are completed.

Thus, ***effective May 1 to September 15, odd/even water restrictions will be in place.*** However, we respectfully ask you to begin these efforts as early as April 1, 2022 in accordance with Borough Ordinance 205-4, which provides as follow:

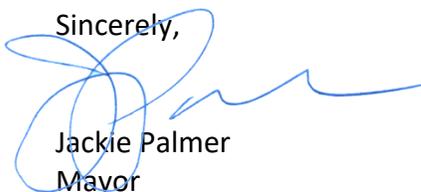
205-4 General regulations. Section I.

Period of restricted use. Between May 1 and September 15, no person shall make external use of water for any purpose, (except for construction or on the 31st day of any month), including but not limited to watering a lawn or landscaping, washing a car, filling a swimming pool or cleaning the exterior of a building, on an odd date unless he or she resides in a house having an odd number and no person shall make external use of water for any purpose (except for construction or on the 31st day of any month), including but not limited to watering a lawn or landscaping, washing a car, filling a swimming pool or cleaning the exterior of a building, on an even date unless he or she resides in a house having an even number, except for newly installed or planted lawns or shrubbery the watering of which shall be permitted only for 45 days after planting. All such permitted external use of water shall occur so as to avoid the needless waste of water which shall include, by way of example but not be limited to, the watering of a lawn in excess of 45 minutes per area, allowing an undirected flow of water for more than two minutes during any of the approved watering uses stated herein, or testing of a newly installed sprinkler system for more than 10 minutes. [Added 4-8-2004 by Ord. No. 04-2004]

We know this is not an ideal situation, and we will be monitoring the status closely to see if further interventions are needed. We are hopeful that jumpstarting with these water conservation efforts in April will assist the Borough and minimize any financial impact this may cause to the Borough.

Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact the Mayor and Business Administrator's Office at 732-416-1821.

Sincerely,



Jackie Palmer
Mayor