



## MILFORD BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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William E. Kingkade Jr., Chairman  
William D. Buckley  
Michael K. Walsh

Richard A. Villani  
Town Administrator

September 8, 2017

Dear Neighbor,

We hope you have had a wonderful summer. Once again, we reach out to you about the important matter of the Town's purchase of the Milford Water Company (MWC). After dedicating ourselves to a very thorough due-diligence review, the Board of Selectmen has concluded that the purchase and ultimate control of the Town's water supply is in the Town's best interest.

As your elected leaders, we have based our decision on years of research, meetings, analysis and consultation. On your behalf, we challenged, questioned and listened carefully to the expert consultants hired by the town. We partnered with our dedicated and talented town officials, led by Town Counsel Gerry Moody and Finance Director Zach Taylor, to consider all of the administrative and financial implications. We have done all of this because this decision is likely one of the most important that the Town will make in this century. This level of review is what you deserve from us.

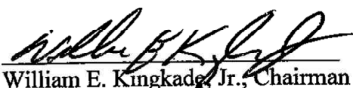
You stop us on the street, at meetings, in the store and tell us that what you care most about is the quality of our water supply; the water our children drink, our grandchildren bathe in and our families fundamentally cannot live without. That concern is at the core of our decision to ask Town Meeting to move forward with spending \$63 million to purchase the MWC. We understand this is a Town Meeting vote that will impact the lives of generations to come.

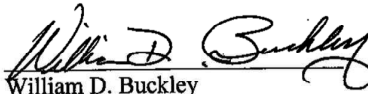
As we promised you, the Board will host another public information meeting on this topic at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11 at Milford High School. Coinciding with the meeting, we will release additional materials prepared for the Town and summarizing the results of the financial and legal due diligence to date. We hope you will join us, and look for these materials at [www.milfordma.gov](http://www.milfordma.gov). You will hear more about how our review has shown that the MWC has not been investing as much as water users would want in the long-term health of the system. We will explain why there will be some catch up for us as new owners, and why we are confident Milford is up to the task.


Our finance team and their consultants also will explain that our review has concluded that increasing rates, rather than additional capital borrowing by the town, is a smarter financial way to improve the system. Mr. Taylor will show you step by step how we reached this conclusion.

We, more than anyone, appreciate both the complexity and opportunity that this decision presents for all of us. Neither path is easy, walking away and letting others care for the quality of our water, or taking charge ourselves. But we are now very clear on what is the right thing to do. With all the information before us, we have chosen to try and seize this opportunity to build a community water system that is transparent, responsive and accountable to all residents. Milford Water Department will set quality as its highest priority.

Sincerely,

  
William E. Kingkade Jr., Chairman

  
William D. Buckley

  
Michael K. Walsh