

March 5, 2019

ARTICLE 2 – Further Information

We would like to offer the following regarding the recent letters which have appeared in The Sun regarding the Town's plans to construct an Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility.

The Town of Belmont has been awarded through the Drinking Water Groundwater Trust Fund a grant in the amount of \$1.5 million for the construction of an Iron and Manganese Water Treatment Plant; and we were also awarded a low-interest loan in the amount of \$1.6 million through the same Trust Fund program. If the Town does not vote by a 2/3 majority vote at this year's Town Meeting on March 12, 2019 to move the project forward, the Town will forfeit the grant and low-interest loan; there is no guarantee that this level of funding will be available to the Town in the future.

In 2007/2008, the Town of Belmont undertook permitting of its newest well, GPW #3 which went online in 2010 and has been used as the primary source of Belmont's water since that time. Wells #1 and #2 have been designated as back up sources. Since going online in 2010, Well #3 has been routinely tested for Iron and Manganese, and the levels of each have steadily increased over time to a level which exceeds the SMCL (Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level) identified by the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. While Iron and Manganese do not pose a health risk, they do contribute to discolored water, staining of laundry and fixtures and taste and odor issues. In addition, iron and manganese deposits can build up in the distribution system causing a reduction in carrying capacity and fire flows. Investigations are currently ongoing in the water industry relative to the health effects of manganese. The Town began exploring alternative resources in 2017 and hired Hydrosorce Associates who identified several potential groundwater supply sites. The Town continued its investigation in 2018 by hiring Underwood Engineers to complete a Water Supply Alternatives study which included a cost-effective analysis of the supply options. As a result of the work completed by our consultants over the past few years, we have determined it is in the Town's best interest to pursue construction of an Iron and Manganese Treatment Facility which would treat our existing Well #3 and a rehabilitated Well #1.

While the recent letters speak to the potential of an alternative well having high-output and high-quality water, we believe that the alternative well they mention was only conditionally approved for up to 56,160 gallons per day in 2009 whereas the Town's wells are permitted under the Large Groundwater Rules for up to 936,000 gallons per day. Well #3 alone is permitted for 648,000 gallons per day and we are producing on average 100,000 per day, with higher amounts in the late spring, summer and early fall. We note that Well #3 met a high-quality standard at the time of its construction, however, over time it has shown steady increases in the level of iron and manganese; as have Wells 1 and 2 which are in the same aquifer. It is very likely that any potential source on this aquifer will, over time, have similar results.

We thank you for your time and consideration of Article 2.

Belmont Board of Selectmen