

# STONE BRIDGE FIRE DISTRICT

1765 Main Road, Tiverton RI 02878

## Annual Report 2023-2024

The Administrative Board of the Stone Bridge Fire District is pleased to present the operational activities for the fiscal year 2023-2024.

In the past several years, Tiverton has seen many major housing development proposals, most of which are in the review stage by town boards. Questions have been raised regarding the impact of these developments on town services, including the availability of water that is safe for drinking, cooking, bathing and other household uses. The Town sought and received a grant from the State of Rhode Island to conduct a hydraulic study of the Stone Bridge and North Tiverton water distribution systems. The study will help determine the ability of these systems to provide an adequate supply of water for the proposed developments. The Town has hired the engineering firm Weston & Sampson to conduct the study. Stone Bridge engineer Northeast Water Solutions will assist the District in collecting the data needed to complete the study.

The Riverside Drive water main replacement project was completed last year. This project was done in conjunction with the Tiverton Waste Water District's project to install a low-pressure sewer line and was funded through the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank. The project was completed under budget, and the District was informed by RIIB that \$65,000.00 was still available in the fund. The District will use this money for future infrastructure projects and is awaiting approval from RIIB to:

- install a one-way interconnection (serving Stone Bridge) into the existing water main that connects the Stone Bridge and North Tiverton water systems at Silver Beech Road. It will provide a new metered and pressure-regulated water supply into the Stone Bridge system in the event of a loss of the primary water source from Stafford Pond and the water treatment plant;
- replace the Hillside Avenue water main;
- replace a section of the water main at the western end of Bulgarmarsh Road;
- replace the roll seal valve at the North Brayton Road standpipe tank; and
- upgrade the analog control systems at the water treatment plant with an automated Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system.

The Annual Meeting of the District was held on July 9, 2024, at 7:30 PM in the parish hall at Holy Trinity Church. The Treasurer presented the annual audit completed by Marcum LLC, which is available in the District office. The Treasurer also presented the estimated budget for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2025, which was approved by the voters present. The water rate for this fiscal year will increase from \$10.75 to \$11.15 per thousand gallons, in line with the increase of the Consumer Price Index. This will increase the annual water usage bill for a customer using 40,000 gallons per year from \$430.00 to \$446.00 dollars. Due to a significant increase in property valuations in Tiverton, the voters approved a decrease in the tax rate from \$.66 to \$.55 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation.

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Frederick Hussey retired from the Administrative Board as of the annual meeting after 17 years of service to the District. Fred had served as Treasurer for many years and then as Chair of Assessors until his retirement. The District and the Board are thankful for Fred's dedicated and expert service. The following Administrative Board officers were elected at the annual meeting:

- Catherine Tobin, Chair of Assessors for 2 years
- Andrew Plocica, Assessor for 2 years
- Donna Edwards, Assessor for 1 year
- Peter Forrest, Clerk for 2 years.

On April 4 the District mailed to all customers a public notice regarding violations of Rhode Island Department of Health reporting requirements for testing water quality and failure to renew on time a plant operator's license. The required reports have been submitted and, as stated in the notice, another plant employee already had the required license and has been designated as the RIDoH approved qualified operator. Additionally, on April 8 the Administrative Board agreed to a contract with the District engineer, Northeast Water Solutions, to provide regulatory compliance services, including baseline system inspections and operating support services.

The annual Consumer Confidence Report was mailed to all customers and contains the results of tests required by the Rhode Island Departments of Environmental Management and Health and the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The Administrative Board is thankful to our employees for their dedicated and expert service to the District.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Administrative Board  
Stone Bridge Fire District

Timothy L. Byrne Moderator  
Joseph F. Bento III, Tax Collector  
Jason Mello, Treasurer  
Catherine Tobin, Chair of Assessors

Andrew Plocica, Assessor  
Donna Edwards, Assessor  
Peter M. Forrest, Clerk

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

#### Stone Bridge Fire District Does Not Meet Treatment Requirements

PWS#R11615619

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we did to correct the situation.

As a Community Water System, we are required to maintain a state-approved qualified operator with the designated Treatment Operator License to oversee and operate the treatment facility. As of 12/20/2023, the Stone Bridge Fire District is operating under an expired treatment license and thus has failed to maintain a state-approved qualified operator.

#### **What should I do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time. You may continue to drink the water. If a situation arises where the water is no longer safe to drink, you will be notified within 24 hours.

#### **What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours. We do not know of any cases of contamination.

#### **What is being done?**

Another water treatment plant operator employed by the District has the required Treatment Operator License and has become the designated state-approved qualified treatment operator.

For more information, please contact the District office at 401-624-4486.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

DATED: April 1, 2024