

WHAT IS THE SOUTHERN WATER LINE AND WHY IS IT ON THE NOVEMBER 8 ELECTION DAY BALLOT?

By Bill Davidson

On Election Day, November 8, you will have the opportunity to vote for the candidates running for local political office AND to vote to approve the construction of the Southern Water Line. As explained below, this water line **will** support and strengthen our business community. It will increase the commercial tax base. It **will** provide drinkable water to Sandy Lane condos. **It will not be paid for by your real estate taxes.** I urge you to vote YES to approve the water line.

The Southern Water Line will run along Federal Road from just south of Route 133 to just south of Candlewood Lake Road. It will provide a continuous public water source and public fire protection from the New Milford border to Candlewood Lake Road. Eventually, the water line will extend to the Danbury border and connect with Danbury's water line.

To be clear, fire hydrants will be built as part of this plan, and Brookfield will foot the annual maintenance bill for these public safety assets. The incremental annual cost to the town will be \$9,000, but we anticipate that the increase to the Town's grand list resulting from this investment will cover this increase many times over while insurance for many residents along this water line will go down. Despite this moderate cost, the Southern Water Line is a real win-win for everyone.

This water line will help keep your taxes low. The line will support the Town's current commercial and retail businesses. It will enable businesses to expand. It will encourage new businesses to locate in Brookfield. It will provide public drinking water to Sandy Lane and Rollingwood condominiums. **The more we support and grow our commercial tax base, the more we control taxes on our homes.**

The \$4.7 million construction cost for this water line will be paid by the water line users along Federal Road. Some of this cost may be paid by the water company that will operate the line. This water line will not be paid for by general taxation. This means that **Brookfield residents will not pay for the construction of the water line.** All costs including interest on the long-term bonds that will finance the construction will be paid by the water line users through a benefit assessment. Users will have 20 years to pay their share of the cost.

Even though the costs of the water line will be borne by the users, Brookfield's charter requires that the townspeople approve the expenditure. That is why the question will be on the November ballot.

I ask that you approve the \$4.7 million expenditure to provide water and fire protection to our primary commercial district. By voting YES, we will support our local businesses and we will help ourselves to keep Brookfield's real estate taxes low.

Thank you for voting on November 8th and thanks in advance for supporting the Southern Water Line.



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