

The Town of Cascade will celebrate its centennial within the next ten years which is a good thing. What's not such a good thing is that much of our water system is the original installation. We have 19 fire hydrants which date back to 1913, and are, for the most part inoperable. Replacement parts are no longer manufactured. Fifty-four percent of our steel and cast iron water mains are more than 90 years old. Manganese deposits on the inside of the pipes restrict flows. Seventy percent of the mains are less than the minimum six-inch diameter required by present day standards. They are only four-inch diameter and some are even smaller. Four of the lines are not looped and the dead-ending results in reduced capacity as well as other problems for those at the end of the line. More than 200 leaks have been repaired since 1990. We do not have a back-up power supply when we lose electric power. Our storage capacity does not meet requirements for fire flows.

In recent years the Town has been making improvements to the system. We have been replacing water lines a block at a time. We have drilled two wells to give us an adequate water supply. We have installed water meters which reduced the amount of water used by almost half in the summer and about one-third during the rest of the year. There is much work remaining to be done.

The proposed project will provide us with additional storage for fire flows, hopefully reducing fire insurance rates, and will include a new 10" transmission main from the storage site on the hillside above Town to the school and downtown business area. It will provide for replacement of the nineteen 90-year old fire hydrants to improve fire protection for the entire town. Estimated cost of the proposed project is \$1,283,500.

Many of the residents of the Town are retired, unemployed, or work at low-paying jobs. We fall into the low-to-moderate income classification. There are only about 340 homes and businesses paying for water at already high rates. We cannot burden our citizens with even higher rates.

Our consulting engineers have put together a project that will provide several grants and the use of available Town reserves to correct some of the major problems in the Town's water system. This grant is one that we urge you to approve to allow us to begin making improvements as soon as possible.