



OFFICE OF
BOARD OF WATER AND SEWERAGE
MEDFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 02052
(508) 906-3004

Residents of Medfield,

The Town of Medfield's water distribution system includes two water storage tanks, the Mount Nebo Water Storage Tank and the storage tank at the former Medfield State Hospital. The Mount Nebo Tank was constructed by the Town in 1983 and has received continuous and diligent maintenance by the Town. The former State Hospital Water Storage Tank was constructed in the 1930's by the Commonwealth and remains in their ownership. Though owned by the Commonwealth, the Tank is tied directly into the Town's distribution system and provides the entire Town with necessary fire protection storage and distribution capacity. Therefore it has been necessary for the Town to maintain and operate the Tank.

In 2012, the Water Department received a Notice of Noncompliance from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) citing deficiencies at the former Medfield State Hospital Water Storage Tank. The Town notified the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (current owners of the State Hospital Storage Tank) and the Water Department took steps to address the Noncompliance. Despite these efforts, water quality issues were discovered through the Town's water quality sampling program. The Water Department has addressed these issues by disinfecting the Mount Nebo Water Storage Tank and the former State Hospital Water Storage Tank, installing equipment within the Mount Nebo Water Storage Tank, and (as required by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection) has isolated the former State Hospital Water Storage Tank from the Town's distribution system. Though the tank has been removed from regular service, the Town is maintaining water in the tank to provide required storage for fire protection. In the event of an emergency, the Water Department can temporarily place the tank back in service. Additionally, MassDEP has required the Town to continuously disinfect its water supply by the addition of chlorine.

Tank inspections as well as an assessment performed as part of a recent update to the Town's Water System Master Plan have determined that the Medfield State Hospital Water Storage Tank has reached the end of its useful life. Additionally, the existing tank is not at an elevation to function efficiently with the Town's water distribution system and the Mount Nebo Water Storage Tank. The Water System Master Plan assessment includes a recommendation to replace the water storage tank at the former Medfield State Hospital. The tank's replacement has been deemed a high priority by the Board of Water and Sewerage.

Sincerely,

Medfield Board of Water & Sewerage



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Former Medfield State Hospital Water Storage Tank

- ❖ The existing water storage tank at the former Medfield State Hospital is a critical component of the Water Distribution System for our entire Town. Until recently the tank supplemented the storage provided by the Mount Nebo Water Storage Tank.
- ❖ Regardless of the redevelopment at the former Medfield State Hospital, a second water storage tank is needed to meet the Town's current maximum day water demand and provide water storage for fire protection.
- ❖ A second water storage tank is also required for redundancy. The Town's only other water storage tank (at Mount Nebo) is over 30 years old and will need rehabilitation in 2016.
- ❖ Citing water quality issues, in 2012 the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) required the Town of Medfield to isolate the former State Hospital Storage Tank from the Town's distribution system. Since that time, the tank has been removed from regular service.
- ❖ Water quality issues also led to a mandate from MassDEP to disinfect the Town's water supply by the addition of chlorine. Until system improvements are completed, notably replacing the State Hospital Water Storage Tank with a modern well-functioning tank, the Town may not pursue approval from MassDEP to discontinue chlorine disinfection.
- ❖ The existing elevation of the storage tank at the former Medfield State Hospital does not allow for efficient operation in coordination with the Mount Nebo Storage Tank to maintain water quality and system pressure. A new tank with more storage at a higher elevation is required to provide for more efficient operation. Additionally, the proposed water main improvements along Hospital Road connecting to the new tank will have the added benefit of reducing energy costs.
- ❖ The existing storage tank was constructed by the Commonwealth in the 1930's and is at the end of its useful service life. The tank cannot be rehabilitated and must be replaced.
- ❖ Article 2 of the 2013 Fall Special Town Meeting would authorize the design of a replacement tank with the goal to have a definitive construction value to be brought forward for approval at the Spring 2014 Annual Town Meeting.

