



Town of Jamestown Resolution of the Water and Sewer Commission

Resolution No.: 2024-01

A Resolution Relative to Request Certain Amendments to Chapter 15 of Title 46 of the General Laws

WHEREAS Chapter 273 of the Public Laws of 1968 authorized, in relevant part, the establishment of a board of water commissioners for the town of Jamestown; and

WHEREAS Chapter 273 at Section 4 authorized the commission to “acquire by purchase, subject to approval of a special or annual financial town meeting the assets of the Jamestown Water Company, and thereafter may construct, operate, maintain, extend and improve a water works system for the town and to provide an adequate supply of water for the town or any part thereof (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS the Water and Sewer Commission of the Town of Jamestown as it presently exists operates and provides a public water system that services a geographic area less than the entire legal territory on the Town; and

WHEREAS Chapter 15 of Title 46 of the General Laws which governs public water supply facilities such as the Jamestown public water system was amended by act of the General Assembly in their 2022 session by Public Law 2022, chapter 66, § 1 which, in pertinent part, actually or implicitly requires the provision of public water beyond the limited service area of the existing water works without a clear regulatory framework by which the applicant’s need can be assessed, nor any regard to the capacity of the existing water system to supply water, the precedent established in enlarging the service area of the water system or the subsequent financial burdens on the ratepayers; and

WHEREAS the Water and Sewer Commission for the Town of Jamestown has determined that these amendments of Chapter 15 of Title 46 of the General Laws impairs the ability of the Commission to maintain adequate water supply and service for its present users due to the limited supply of water available to the Commission. The amendments also exposes ratepayers to unlimited liability to provide public water to any resident regardless of whether they are located within the existing public water service area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Commissioners of the Water and Sewer Commission for the Town of Jamestown, do hereby act and resolve to request that the R.I. General Assembly amend the Chapter 15 of Title 46 of the General Laws to specifically limit a public water system’s obligation to supply water only to those applicants who reside within its designated and described service area and not the entire legal jurisdiction of the Town of Jamestown.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to forward this Resolution to the representatives of the Town of Jamestown in the R.I. General Assembly for its introduction and advocacy for passage and to forward to all other Rhode Island communities and public water supply facilities which may be similarly affected for their consideration and request of support for passage of these requested amendments to Chapter 15 of Title 46 of the General Laws.

By Order of the Jamestown Water and Sewer Commission


Nancy Beye, President

Randall White


Mary E. Meagher, Vice President


Erik Brine


Michael White



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby attach my hand and the
Official seal of the Town of Jamestown this 2nd day of January 2024.


Roberta J. Fagan, Town Clerk

