

Monroe County Water Authority (MCWA)

An Authority is, “[a] ‘public benefit corporation’ [which] more precisely defines the many special purpose agencies in this category. The traditional purpose of the public authority has been to construct, operate and finance a specific type of improvement” (Cuomo and Shaffer, p. 135). Public Authorities have direct and indirect roles with Emergency Service providers.

New York State Public Authorities Law, Title 5, Section 1095 states, “Monroe county water authority. 1. A corporation known as "Monroe County Water Authority" is hereby created and continued for the purposes and charged with the duties and having the powers provided in this title. The authority shall be a body corporate and politic constituting a public benefit corporation and shall be a ‘public district’ for the purposes of section eighty-nine-l of the public service law. It shall consist of seven members, no more than five of whom shall belong to one political party and all of whom shall be residents of the county, who shall be appointed by the president of the county legislature of Monroe county subject to confirmation by a majority of the county legislature of Monroe county” (MCWA Website: Governance. August 10, 2016).

As described in its 2021 Report, and in accordance with its purpose to supply, treat and deliver water within its prescribed regional territory, the Authority “produced and delivered an average of 60 million gallons of water each day...” (MCWA 2021 Report, p. 1), including its contracts with the Town of Mendon and the Village of Honeoye Falls.

“Village of Honeoye Falls: (sales in 1000 gallons) 65,833 to 861 customers
Town of Mendon: (sales in 1000 gallons) 127,851 to 1937 customers” (MCWA 2021 Report, p. 12).

Customer billing is separate from local municipal fees. Authority-wide charges and consumption/usage fees are billed directly to its customer base.

The Authority sources Hemlock Lake and Lake Ontario for our local public purposes, provides any treatment and distributes the water via a system they maintain and expand including hydrants for fire suppression.

Community Fire Protection. The same system of water mains, pumps and storage tanks that reliably provides clean tap water to your home also provides excellent fire protection for the community. We are proud to provide this important service to our entire customer base.

Always at the ready. While firefighters primarily handle hydrants in an emergency, MCWA takes responsibility for day-to-day hydrant operation and maintenance. This means keeping clean water flowing — at the right pressure — to working hydrants around the clock all year long.

An extensive challenge. In MCWA's service area, we properly tend to more than 27,000 public fire hydrants strategically placed along our 3,400 miles of water mains. Having a hydrant relatively close to a home or building can be a factor in fire insurance premiums (MCWA Website, Fire Protection, 9.11.22).

New York State Town Law, Section 198.3.(b) authorizes, "The town board [to] contract with any person or corporation, municipal or otherwise, or with a town or county on behalf of a water district, for a supply of water, for a term not to exceed forty years" (FASNY, p. 670).

New York State Village Law, Section 11-1100 authorizes the Board of Trustees to, "...contract, in the name of the village, with an individual or corporation for supplying water to the village for extinguishing fires or for other public purposes; but such contracts shall not be made for a longer period than forty years" (FASNY, p. 759).

The Town of Mendon has one water district - District #1, with separate and distinct sub-areas for capital costs and consumption billing. They are known as: "District #1, Extension 1; District #1, Extension 2; District #1, Extension 3; District #1, Extension 4; and, District #1, Extension 5" (Parmelee, 8.23.22). The MCWA owns, operates and maintains a Reservoir in the Town of Mendon as part of its supply and distribution system (Gates, 8.23.22). **All capital costs are typically financed with a 30-year Bond, with principal and interest charged to each property owner across the life of the Bond. This charge appears as a separate "Water District" line item on their annual Town Tax Bill.**

The Town Board is vigilant in its role with public water supply as a Public Health measure and to benefit fire protection. The most recent MCWA extension study is a May, 2018 update to previous studies. In its *Preliminary Construction Water Main Estimates Town of Mendon* report, LaBella was commissioned to, "Estimate the cost of District extensions...by road, geographic area...including installation costs, rate projections and financing costs" (May, 2018). **At the time of this Study, Labella "Estimated 425 lots [households]" were not served by a public water supply (page not numbered for reference).**