

April 15, 2013

Hi Bobbie,

I'm sending this in response to your request about the feasibility of selling the water company.

Our water supply is a valuable resource and once it is gone we will not be able to retrieve it. We have excellent water with minimum amount of HCL. This is a very unique situation. A provider can choose to have the HCL level as high as allowed and often does. As an example: While visiting a relative in Annandale, Va. we found the water to be so bad that I brought a sample home for testing. It had a reading 30 times higher than our water. When the provider was asked why it was so high, he said that although it was not necessary in this particular area, others did require more HCL and to standardize the level everyone got the same dose. It had been raised to the maximum to avoid legal action. By giving up control of our system we also give up control of what is added to the water.

Monitoring how the equipment functions is another concern. Auto-HCL testing was introduced in pump house #2. HCL is highly corrosive and needs constant monitoring. In less than a year it was out of commission. Because a VSA member checks the system daily, the problem was quickly handled. How often would an outside provider check the system? Would it be on a daily basis?

When an upgrade or emergency repair is required we presently have control over what is done and who will do it. If someone is willing to oversee the operation of the system there are good resources to use. I went to many DEP sponsored classes and when needed called upon the NJRWA and the AWWA for advice and help. These organizations are geared to help small water companies such as ours. On several occasions they came to MKL to help locate curb stops, water mains and water main breaks. When further help was required, we had access to a complete lab, a reliable pump company and a contractor to repair broken pipes. All were on call, all responded as soon as they were called upon and the price was reasonable.

An outside owner can do all of the above but it will be on their terms. We will not necessarily have the immediate response that we have when we are in charge, it may be necessary to wait and be fit into the outside provider's schedule.

If no one at the lake is willing to oversee the water company we may have no other option but to turn it over and foot the bill. When Don Douglas was in charge he was paid a small fee. Perhaps something could be worked out with a resident or if no resident is available perhaps we could contract the work out so that if conditions change we are still in control of this valuable asset.

Jim