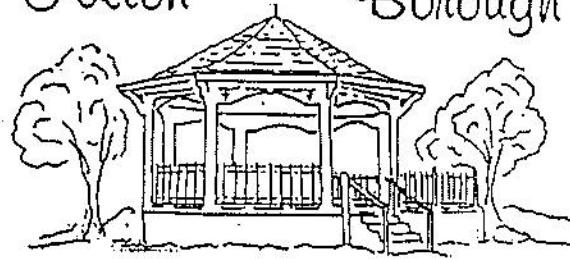


88 Main Street
Felton, PA 17322

Felton Borough



Felton, Pa 17322

Phone: 717-246-6493
feltonboroughoffice@gmail.com

June 16, 2025

Felton Borough Property Owners

Re: Public Water

To Whom It May Concern,

This packet of information is to inform you about the discussion the Felton Borough Council is having about possibly bringing public water to the borough. We are providing a list of questions that have been answered so far and would welcome any additional questions you may have.

The Felton Borough Council asks that you please fill out the enclosed form and return to the borough office by **July 31st**. The survey results will be presented to the council at the August 11th meeting. We ask that you complete this form even if you have signed a petition or reached out to the office before on this matter.

Please know that the Council wishes to make the best decision for the residents and the future of the borough.

Respectfully,

The Felton Borough Council
Garland Martin, Council President
Sherry Arnold
Zac Klock
Michael McPherson

Mary Lader, Vice President
John Trout
James Vergos
Bryan McManus, Mayor

PUBLIC WATER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

Q: Why is the borough looking into public water from The York Water Company?

A: January 9, 2017, a few residents attended the Council meeting to inform the Council about well issues on High Street. At that time the Council went to the Red Lion Water Authority to see if they could provide water to the borough. They would, but the borough would have to cover all the costs of constructing the water lines in the borough and pay to maintain them. After that discussion, the Borough Council went to The York Water Company to see if they could provide water to the borough. They were willing to run water to the borough and were interested in buying the Borough's sewer system. At that time, there would have been no tap in fee to connect to York Water Company's lines. After many years of discussion and after the sale of the sewer system to York Water, the public water discussion was tabled at the Council meeting on May 13, 2021 until more residents needed public water. Now in 2025 there are more residents with issues and concerns for the future of their wells which prompted the Council in February to start looking into public water once again. Currently there is 1 household without water and 10 having issues with their water that the borough is aware of.

Q: Would you have to connect to Public Water even if you have a functioning well?

A: Yes, if the borough enters into an agreement with the York Water Company to supply public water to the borough there would be a Mandatory Connection Ordinance adopted. This Ordinance could be like the Sewer Connection Ordinance; in that it would require any Improved Property within 150' of the line to be connected or it could be written to make it a mandatory connection no matter the distance from the line.

Q: Would there be a tap in fee to connect to public water?

A: Yes, The York Water Company estimates that the cost of the tap in fee would be between \$4,000 and \$6,000. This cost does not include what each homeowner would have to pay to connect their home to the curb stop. That cost will depend on the distance your home is located from the curb. As per the York Water Companies current Tariff information, you would be allowed to pay this fee over the course of 3 years.

Financing of Customer Advance for Bona Fide Service Applicant (C) 3.11.3 If a Customer Advance is required from a bona fide service applicant for service and the bona fide service applicant is unable to advance the entire amount due, the Company shall do one of the following: (A) Allow the applicant to pay the Customer Advance over a period of not less than three (3) years, with the Company recovering financing costs equal to the Company's weighted cost of long term debt. The Company may require the applicant to deposit up to one-third of the total Customer Advance prior to extending service; or (B) Provide information to the applicant on financial institutions that may offer financing to the applicant for the line extension.

There are low interest loans available from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as well as assistance from the York County Home Improvement Program. This information is included in this mailing.

Q: Would York Water Company maintain the water main and service lines going to the curb stop?

A: Yes, York Water will own and operate all the water supply and distribution system, including public fire hydrants. York Water's ownership ends at the curb stop, that is the Company's side of the service. The customer is responsible for the customer side of the service, from the curb stop to the residence. York Water owns the water meter which is (typically) installed inside the home in the basement.

Q: If there is a leak in the service lines, does the water company pay for the water and repairs?

A: If there is a leak on the company's water main or on the company side of the service line, York Water makes repairs. Those repairs are before the meter, so there is no meter 'consumption.' If the customer's service line is leaking, the customer is responsible for making repairs. Because the customer service line is before the meter, there is no consumption. If there is a leak on the customer side of the service the customer will be given 14 days to repair or the water service will be shut off. If there is a leak inside the home (like a toilet leaking, or a dripping faucet) the customer must make the repair and will be billed for all water that passes through the meter.

Q: Will York Water cover the cost for the water meter, dual check valve and pressure reducer valve at time of water connection?

A: York Water installs and owns the water meter. York Water will install a backflow preventer at the time of installation of the meter.

Q: Is there a warranty on the homeowner's side (curb box to house)? The customer service line from the curb to the home is the customer's responsibility. The customer service line is the customer's property. If they have a warranty on the work to install their service line, they should enforce the warranty.

Q: If York Water Co. must dig up a section of road to repair a water line, will they patch the area or do a complete overlay?

A: When York Water installs its water main in the public right-of-way, the York Water Company will restore the pavement. The same holds true for the installation of the curb box. If the curb box is in the public right of way and concrete is damaged, the York Water Company will restore the concrete.

Q: If a meter pit is required due to the distance to the curb stop, who would pay for that cost?

A: If there is a requirement to install a meter pit, York Water may furnish the meter pit and the customer may then take ownership of the meter pit. This will need to be determined as part of the application process to the PA PUC. If a meter is in the meter pit, the customer is responsible for the customer service line from the meter pit to the residence. If there is a leak on the customer service line, the customer is responsible for repairs. The customer will be charged for any water that passes through the meter.

Q: How often are water rates raised?

A: York Water has, on average, increased rates every 3-4 years. We went 5 years, then 4 years, and then 3 years between increases. I believe 3 years will be a more typical rate increase frequency going forward as a result of inflationary pressures

Q: Can York Water turn off your water if you are behind on your sewer fees?

A: If a customer is a wastewater customer of York Water and a Water customer of York Water, yes, York Water would have the right to shut off water service for a sewer delinquency. There would be a turn off fee (\$15 currently) and turn on fee (\$15 currently) assessed should this be necessary. Those fees would have to be paid before water service is restored.

As per York Water Co Tarriff:

9.3 Before termination of service, the Company will take the following steps: 1. Provide a written notice of termination to the Customer at least 10 days prior to the scheduled shut off and the notice shall be in the form required by the Commission; 2. Attempt to make personal contact with the Customer at least three days prior to the shut off date; 3. During winter months (December 1 through March 31), if the Company cannot reach the Customer at the time of termination, the Company will leave a 48-hour notice at the residence; 4. After complying with sections (2) and (3), the Company will attempt to make personal contact with the Customer or responsible adult at the time service is terminated. Termination of service will not be delayed for failure to make personal contact; 5. Upon termination, the Company will make a good faith attempt to provide a post termination notice.

Information on York Water's Customer Assistance program can be found at the following link:

<https://www.yorkwater.com/customer-service/customer-assistance-programs/#cap>

Q: Would the Borough require that all wells be abandoned?

A: Abandoning wells would be a Borough decision. For York Water's part, we allow the homeowner to connect their well to one outside hose spigot for use outdoors. That piping must be separate from the rest of the plumbing due to possible cross contamination. This will be inspected at the time the meter is installed.

Q: Where are the water mains going to run?

A: If the Borough enacts a Mandatory Connection Ordinance, the path of the water mains, and when those mains will be installed, will depend on maximizing the number of connections. Not all of the water mains will be installed on day 1, or year 1, and to provide public water to the entire Borough will take a decade, so not everyone would be connecting in year 1.

Q: How soon would this happen?

A: Best case scenario, three years from the date that Felton Borough and York Water enter into an agreement and the Mandatory Connection Ordinance is in place. That means, three years before any connection fees would be assessed or water would be available. Worst case is four years.

Q: Would someone with a vacant lot be required to pay the tap in fee when the main is run?

A: A mandatory connection ordinance only applies to properties with structures on the parcel. No structure, no connection fee (at least not from York Water standpoint).

Q: What rate would Felton Borough pay?

A: Felton residents would be on Re-Pump System rate because York Water would have to pump the water to Felton. The fixed fee is based on the size of the meter (usually 5/8 or 3/4). The variable fee is based on how much water passes through the meter. Even if a customer uses no water in a month, they are still billed the fixed fee. The rates listed below are per York Water Company's current tariff and are based on \$10.21 per 1,000 gallons.

Example: *Fixed rate is in bold*

5/8" \$24.85 and 5,000-gallon usage per month would be \$64.65 = \$89.50

3/4" \$34.10 and 5,000-gallon usage per month would be \$64.65 = \$98.75

Up to 5,000 gallons per month –

*These rates are per the current rate request filing that York Water Co made to the PUC on May 30, 2025.
<https://www.yorkwater.com/rate-request-filing/>*

Q: If I am currently on the sewer system, would the monthly rate change or continue to be a flat rate fee of \$86.90?

A: Should the Borough decide to move forward with public water, there would be two rates for sewer. Those on sewer but not water (no meter) would continue paying the flat fee. Those who have sewer and water (there is a meter) would be transferred to a consumption-based sewer bill.

Q: Would there be fire hydrants installed in the borough and who pays for them?

A: Yes, the borough would work with the fire company to determine how many and the location of those hydrants. The borough would pay a monthly fee of \$40.73 per hydrant. Having fire hydrants in the borough could lower your home owner's insurance depending on the distance to the hydrant.

Q: Could a homeowner do their own connection rather than paying a professional?

A: This is a question for the Borough. If the Borough does not require permits for water, electric, gas, etc. installation or require licensed professionals, then that is the Borough's call. York Water will inspect the connection from the home to our curb stop. If it is not compliant with York Water Company's specifications, we would not initiate service.

Another possibility would be to have contractors give a quote on doing multiple connections for a possible discounted rate.

When the sewer connection was required, homeowners were allowed to do their own connection if it was done per the specifications.

York Water Company's rates and 'rules' are all posted on their web page. You can access the current tariff at

<https://www.yorkwater.com/wp-content/uploads/tariff.pdf>

