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Belmar makes the switch back to NJ American Water Company

By *Haley Behre*

BELMAR – Earlier this week Belmar switched back to NJ American Water Company for its water supply – a switch that the borough will be monitoring since there has been ongoing water issues in parts of town for quite some time.

The borough has been experiencing discolored and dirty water in certain areas of town, particularly in the Rhode Island Point section, which is the southwestern section of town near Maclearie Park, and the opposite end of town, Surf Avenue area and Seventh Avenue, which is near Silver Lake.

To alleviate the situation, the borough has undergone aggressive flushing, with no luck.

In late May, the borough began using its own water supply.

Belmar gets its water from NJ American Water Company for half the year, and uses its own wells for the remainder of the year.



Realizing the water issue stemmed from aging infrastructure, the borough devised a plan to improve its infrastructure in certain parts of town.

That plan, which includes cleaning and lining the infrastructure in areas affected by the water issues, was presented to the governing body in the summer. An ordinance was unanimously approved authorizing the borough to issue \$5 million in bonds or notes to fund the project.

The borough is moving forward with this project because “we know it’s [the water issue] not going to go away for people,” said Colleen Connolly, borough administrator.

While the project is moving forward, it was unable to begin prior to the borough switching back to NJ American Water Company, which was done earlier this week.

The borough plans to go out to bid for the water infrastructure improvements in the upcoming week.

In the meantime, the borough will be working closely with NJ American Water Company, testing the water and flushing the system, to “ensure that the switch is as seamless as possible,” Ms. Connolly said.

The borough will also be monitoring the situation, she said.

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