

RESOLUTION No. 25-01



RESOLUTION OF THE
NEW SHOREHAM WATER COMMISSION



A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO REQUEST
CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO
CHAPTER 15 OF TITLE 46 OF THE GENERAL LAWS

WHEREAS Chapter 18 of the Public Laws of 2000 authorized, in relevant part, the establishment of a board of water commissioners for the Town of New Shoreham; and

WHEREAS Chapter 18 at Section 1 authorized the commission to "authorized to plan, construct, operate, maintain, extend and improve a water supply system for the town [of New Shoreham] or any part or parts thereof." (emphasis added); and

WHEREAS the Water Commission of the Town of New Shoreham 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 as defined by Town of New Shoreham Ordinance § 19-240; and

WHEREAS Chapter 15 of Title 46 of the General Laws which governs public water supply facilities such as the New Shoreham 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 Commission for the Town of New Shoreham has determined that these amendments of Chapter 15 of Title 46 of the General Laws impair 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 expose 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 Commission for the Town of New Shoreham, 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 New Shoreham.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Commission Clerk is hereby authorized to forward this Resolution to the representatives of the Town of New Shoreham in the R.I. General Assembly for its introduction and advocacy for passage, to forward to the New Shoreham Town Clerk & New Shoreham Town Council 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 New Shoreham Water Commission


Bradford Marthens, Commission Chair

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby attach my hand and hereby certify this Resolution
of the New Shoreham Water District, following a vote at its Regular Meeting
on this 5th day of February, 2025.


Susan Milner, District Clerk