

# BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE

MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

William Budesheim  
*Mayor*

Carol Talerico  
*Registered Municipal Clerk*



July 8, 2010

RIVERDALE, NEW JERSEY 07457

I am sure just about all of you are aware of the terrible tragedy that befell a family in our community, the complete loss of their home due to a fire. Fortunately no one was injured in any way. By the time our fire department arrived on the scene, less than eight minutes after receiving the alarm, the house was totally engulfed in flames, there was no chance to save it. We owe our fire department and the numerous surrounding fire departments who assisted us gratitude for their professionalism in preventing further spreading of the fire under these drought conditions.

This event has renewed the discussion of fire protection for your neighborhood. The costs of running municipal water to that side of the highway and within the development would be cost prohibitive. However, a resident met with me and generously offered to let us use part of his property to place a water tank for fire protection.

In speaking to our fire chief and water engineer, it was determined that we would be able to install under ground (below the frost line) a cistern with a stand-pipe, which acts like a fire hydrant, providing our fire trucks a considerable source of water. The cistern would hold 20,000 gallons of water, the amount generally necessary to fight a house fire according to our water engineer. Of course, through mutual aid, we would continue to rely on neighboring departments to continue to assist us with their tankers as supplemental sources of water. (Due to the extensive nature of the latest fire, we used approximately 30,000 gallons of water.)

We are researching this very feasible option at this time and would like to put it in place, if you agree, before winter sets in. Preliminarily, we are considering two cisterns in the Stoneleigh section and one in Hartung. There would be a minimal annual charge to the residents for the installation and maintenance of these cisterns. We would also need property owners to let us install an underground cistern with the stand pipe on their lots, two in Stoneleigh and one in Hartung. We have a general idea of the approximate locations that would work, to be finalized as we progress.

If you wish to get more information and discuss this option, you are invited to attend the next regular meeting of the Mayor and Council on Monday, July 19 at 7:30 PM in the Municipal Building.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 19th.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'William Budesheim'.

William Budesheim  
Mayor

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# BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE

MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

William Budesheim  
Mayor

Carol Talerico  
Registered Municipal Clerk



July 29, 2010

RIVERDALE, NEW JERSEY 07457

As promised here is the follow-up letter to the meeting we had on July 19. I wish to thank those who took the time to attend that important meeting, as well as those who have continued to provide further insight and opinions on this vital issue to you neighborhood.

In order to obtain a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) certification, one of the requirements is that the tank provide 20,000 gallons of water. We intend to design and construct these systems within those specifications, if possible.

To summarize the facts discussed at the meeting, as well as the additional information some have requested:

- The cost to the homeowner would be an initial connection charge of \$1,500 payable over time for those requesting it. There would be an \$80 annual charge for water and maintenance
- The costs of purchasing the tanks and installation would be approximately \$60,000 each for a total of \$180,000 for all three.
- The initial connection charge would cover about two-thirds of the total installation costs. A resident calculated that calculating the annual cost to fill the tanks it will take 13 years to finish paying for the tanks.
- Our engineer in determining the best location is looking at elevation to a degree, distance and soil suitability for excavation.
- In Hartung Estates, the preliminary location appears it would be at the end of Wesley Street.
- In the Stoneleigh section, one location would be at the Moratto's residence on Hillside Avenue, where a test hole has already been dug. The other potential site would be at the upper end of Highland Avenue.

It is our intention to get your approval before we proceed any further. There is a Council meeting on Monday, August 2 at 7:30 if you wish to discuss it further and to let us know if there is additional information you need in order to make a definitive decision.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'William Budesheim'.

William Budesheim  
Mayor