



**To:** Dustin Anderson – Town Manager

**From:** David White – Supervisor Water & Sewer Division  
Stephen Gunty – Director of Public Works

**Meeting:** August 21, 2023

**Re:** Purchase of a Backflow Management service

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### **Background**

Currently, the town's backflow management process is inadequate and does little to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements from IDEM. A service from Backflow Solutions Inc. (BSI) solves this.

Backflow prevention devices prevent contaminated water from flowing back into the drinking water supply. Once installed on a residential homeowner's water service line it provides a physical mechanical barrier to ensure that water can only flow in one direction from the Town's water supply to the user and not the opposite direction. This protects the Town's drinking water supply from potential contamination should a backflow situation occur through normal changes in pressure in the distribution system.

### **Methodology**

IDEM regulations require that all backflow devices be tested annually by a certified tester and that records be maintained. Currently, the town has limited capacity to verify testing, leading to a risk of non-compliance and potential harm to our water supply.

BSI specializes in automating the backflow management program, which includes the verification and tracking of credentials for testers and testing companies. They also maintain the data and assist with compliance, which can be a significant challenge for us to manage internally. By engaging BSI, we can ensure that we are meeting state regulations and keeping our water system safe for our community.

All billing is handled by BSI directly to the backflow device tester (contractor) at a charge of \$15.95 per report. Transition from the Town's current data collection process to the BSI program will involve 2 annual notices to testing contractors and homeowners that will be handled by BSI and will be seamless.

### **Budget Note**

This purchase will be funded from the water budget.

### **Recommendation**

By motion and voice vote, approve the backflow management service proposed by Backflow Solutions Inc. in the amount of \$750 for a one-time data migration fee and an annual fee of \$495.