

**Barnet Fire District #2
Barnet Village Water System**

**Barnet Fire District #2 Prudential Committee Members: Jon Carpenter (Clerk), Jay Sprout (Vice Chair)
Barnet Fire District #2 Officers: Shawn Timson (Treasurer)**

WHAT IS A FIRE DISTRICT?

Fire districts are municipal corporations. Their purpose is to manage certain functions of town government that either are not available throughout the entire town, or are better administered by a distinct, special-purpose entity. Fire districts have been formed to manage community sewer systems, sidewalks, street lighting, fire departments, and water systems. The Barnet Fire District #2 is responsible for the Barnet Village Water System, street lights, and sidewalks within Barnet Village.

The main reasons for a community to form a fire district are:

- The customers of the water system retain control of its operation.
- The district is governed democratically because all registered voters within the district have voting powers.
- The system becomes eligible for various state and federal funding programs and municipal financing rates and terms that are not available to privately owned water systems.
- The district has the power to collect fees for water use and levy tax liens for nonpayment of water rates.

Some of the disadvantages of a fire district include:

- Members may not have a technical, managerial, and financial background required to operate a water system. However, the fire district can overcome technical deficiencies this by hiring someone with the appropriate skills.
- Members are not likely to realize the extensive time commitment required until the fire district has been formed. This can cause a high turnover in the governing body of the fire district. Therefore, a fire district should be formed only when there is a genuine level of interest in the community.
- A fire district has all the rights and responsibilities of a municipality, including following open meeting and record retention laws, taxing and taking decisions, and passing bonds for infrastructure improvements.

VT DEC Guidance Document

The Barnet Fire District #2 was established February 28, 1920.

Yearly Debt Payment	Number of Customers	Yearly Debt Payment per Customer
\$31,696.79	60	\$528.27

This debt payment per customer is 1% of \$52,827.

Distribution Line

- 7,200 feet of 4-inch Cast Iron Pipe
- 4,800 feet of 2-inch Copper Pipe



WATER SYSTEM CASE MAP

2-5

