



## Water Main Breaks in Nyack Raise Questions on Infrastructure, Funding, and Oversight

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NYACK — Repeated water main breaks in Nyack are raising renewed questions about the village’s aging infrastructure, how repair funding is being allocated, and how oversight is divided among village officials and the water department. The May 2 break at South Broadway and Clinton Avenue is the latest in a series of disruptions that residents say point to a system under continued strain despite ongoing repairs and reported investment.



Water main break May 2, 2026 Courtesy News 12

The break caused a temporary drop in water pressure and service disruptions for nearby homes and businesses. Village crews responded quickly, restoring most service within hours. A small number of homes were later placed under a precautionary boil-water advisory while testing was completed.

On social media, residents expressed mixed reactions. Some praised the quick response by crews and said repairs were handled efficiently. Others said the incident reflected a recurring pattern of water main breaks across the village.

Comments across local posts consistently pointed to concerns about aging infrastructure, frequent repairs in multiple neighborhoods, and uncertainty about long-term system reliability.

### Ongoing Pattern of Water System Issues

The May 2 incident is part of a continuing series of water system failures in Nyack.

Earlier this year, a section of Route 9W (North Highland Avenue) was closed for daytime repairs following another water main break, with traffic detoured onto Midland Avenue. In 2025, a major South Broadway break lifted pavement and disrupted service to homes and businesses. Another transmission main failure that same year led to a boil-water advisory in multiple neighborhoods.

Residents have also reported intermittent low water pressure, temporary shutoffs, and occasional discolored water during maintenance and repair work in different sections of the village.



The low water pressure from these breaks and intermittent low pressure can put people in danger if there is a fire and the fire department does not have the water pressure to effectively fight it.

### Residents Affected by Service Interruptions

According to News 12 reporting, some residents were left without water during the outage period.

“Nothing, there’s no water,” one longtime resident told News 12, describing turning on the faucet with no response.

Another resident reported intermittent service, saying water briefly returned before shutting off again.

By Sunday afternoon, the ruptured main had been repaired and service restored to hundreds of customers. Still, about two dozen homes in the immediate area remained under a precautionary boil-water advisory while testing was completed.

Residents impacted by the advisory said it created added concern for families, particularly those with young children, as officials indicated lab testing could take 48 to 72 hours before water safety results are confirmed.

### Social Media Concerns Over Repeated Breaks

On social media, residents have expressed growing concern over what many describe as a recurring pattern of water main breaks across the village.

Comments reflected frustration about repeated disruptions, aging infrastructure, and uncertainty about long-term system reliability.

Common themes included the frequency of breaks in different neighborhoods, temporary fixes, and calls for more permanent infrastructure solutions.

### Local Media Consensus

Local and regional reporting consistently describes Nyack’s water system as aging and increasingly vulnerable, with infrastructure in some areas dating back decades.

Coverage indicates that many recent incidents are part of a recurring pattern rather than isolated events. While emergency repairs are typically handled quickly, reporting emphasizes that much of the work is reactive rather than preventive.

Media coverage also notes that although Nyack has secured millions in infrastructure funding, those resources are often allocated in phases, meaning full system replacement will take time and prioritization across multiple capital cycles.

Overall, the consensus is that Nyack’s water system challenges are ongoing, well-documented, and tied to aging infrastructure that is being addressed gradually rather than comprehensively at once.

### Official Responses and System Structure

In response to questions about the May 2 break and broader concerns, Mayor Joseph Rand said the water department operates independently with its own governing board and that he has limited involvement in day-to-day operations.

“The water department is a separate entity outside the village, with its own board, and I do not have much personal involvement with it,” Rand said in an email response. He added that operational issues are handled by the Village Administrator and water department leadership.

Rand also acknowledged the ongoing infrastructure challenges while praising the response by water crews. “Nyack is an old, historical village, so we’re always going to have issues with our infrastructure, but we are grateful for the hard work of our Water Department staff who quickly fixed the water main leak and restored service as soon as possible,” Rand said.



### **Budget, Funding, and Financial Records**

Village budget documents show Water Department-related accounting under Line A.0000.2818 at approximately \$100,000 in the FY 2025–2026 budget, down from about \$125,000 in the prior fiscal year, reflecting a roughly 20% decrease in that line item.

Officials have said addressing the water system remains a major capital priority despite fluctuations in individual budget lines.

Nyack has also received approximately \$7.2 million in combined state and federal grants and financing through water infrastructure programs supported by New York State and federal initiatives. These funds are primarily aimed at improving water quality and treatment systems, as well as supporting phased infrastructure upgrades.

Officials note that while outside funding supports major projects, full system replacement requires long-term planning and multi-year capital investment due to the age and scope of the infrastructure.

### **Follow-up Outreach**

Water Superintendent Thomas Lynch participated in a 38-minute conversation regarding the village water system and ongoing infrastructure concerns.

Following that discussion, Rockland Post reporter sent an email and called attempting to get more information to clarify items from our discussion on operational details and funding allocations. Those follow-up calls and emails have gone unanswered at the time of publication.

### **Broader Outlook**

While village leadership points to ongoing investment and phased improvements, residents continue to balance appreciation for quick emergency response with concern over repeated disruptions.

The overall picture reflected in community discussion and local reporting remains consistent: Nyack’s water system is aging, under strain, and being repaired in stages rather than fully rebuilt at once.

### **Public Resources**

Water Department: <https://www.nyack.gov/departments/Water>

Board of Water Commissioners / Meeting Minutes: <https://www.nyack.gov/meetingdashboard>