

**Town of Amenia
Wastewater Committee Meeting
February 9, 2009**

Attending:

Darlene Riemer, Chair
Brad Rebillard
Martin Grossman
Allison Hale
Bill Flood
Bill Carroll
Janet Reagon, Secretary
Norm Cayea, Town Board
Vicki Doyle, Town Board
Wayne Euvrard, Town Supervisor

Absent:

Tony Robustelli
Candace Balmer, RCAP, due to
a scheduling conflict

Present by Invitation:

Ed Mills, DCWWA
Pete Setaro, P.E. Morris Engineers
Fred Testa, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation

Darlene Riemer chaired the meeting, which had been postponed from February 2 at the request of Pete Setaro. The minutes of January 12, 2009 were approved upon a motion by Bill Carroll, and a second by Allison Hale, and will be posted on the town's website.

Pete Setaro presented a draft Map, Plan and Report for the proposed Amenia Hamlet Sewer District. Several committee members questioned individual assessments, and recommended a review of the benefit assessment formula. It was further recommended that the assessment for churches and schools be reviewed, since it is unlikely that their excess acreage will generate increased flow. Pete Setaro will also check the Operation and Maintenance costs to make sure that the figure includes the collection system as well as the treatment plant. Ed Mills pointed out that whatever formula and methodology is used, it must be applied equitably, and there should be an appeals process. Committee members were asked to review the draft and to send their comments or questions to Darlene Riemer by February 17, 2009. These comments and suggestions will be forwarded to Pete Setaro, and a meeting date of March 16 was set for the committee to review the Map, Plan and Report. It was also noted that the MOU among the developer, the town and DCWWA needs to be agreed upon before the Town Board accepts the Map, Plan and Report.

Fred Testa, a Program Management Community Assistance Project Coordinator for NYSEFC, explained the ways in which the EFC can help the town, and the necessary steps the town must take to become eligible for such assistance. One significant way EFC helps municipalities is to make lower-cost financing available to districts with low income levels. Depending upon the amount of money made available by the federal stimulus package, there may be more options for grants within the next two years, but the amount of money NYS will receive is not known at this time. At present Amenia is on the Multi-year list because EFC does not have its engineering report and schedule. In order to move to the Annual List and to be eligible for either low-cost financing or grants, the town must do the following:

1. Complete an Engineering Planning Report and have it approved by DEC, EFC, and DCWWA.

2. Complete an environmental review (SEQR), which includes submitting the plan to all interested agencies, including DEC, the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, NYS Agriculture and Markets, and the DOT, among others.
3. If the amount of the annual benefit assessment for homeowners in the proposed District exceeds the Office of the State Comptroller's recommended limit, the town must seek approval from OSC.
4. Review the original application to see if the total score for this project can be improved. This would involve obtaining the latest figures for the Median Household Income of residents of the proposed district, and re-writing the narrative to reflect the need for this project.

Mr. Testa explained the two different options for forming a Sewer District, either as a part-county district with DCWWA subject to permissive referendum, or as a town district that can be formed by petition. If it were a town district, a contract could be signed with DCWWA to run it. In either case, bringing down the annual benefit assessment cost to residents is essential. He recommended that Amenia also pursue grants through the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development Fund. He also left several copies of a CD, *New York State Revolving Funds*, which provides information, forms and examples for the town to use.

On behalf of the committee, Ms. Riemer thanked Mr. Testa for all of his information and for attending our meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

The next meeting is on **Monday, March 16, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,

Janet M. Reagon, Secretary