

**Town of Amenia
Wastewater Committee Meeting
March 23, 2009**

Attending:

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

Absent:

Tony Robustelli

Present by Invitation:

Ed Mills, DCWWA
Fred Testa, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation
Wayne Euvrard, Town Supervisor

Darlene Riemer chaired the meeting. The minutes of March 16, 2009 were approved upon a motion by Bill Flood and a second by Allison Hale, and will be posted on the town's website.

There was discussion about which version of the Draft Benefit Unit Cost assessment to choose to move forward. It is important that the Draft Map, Plan and Report is finished quickly, so that the town can proceed with the steps necessary to meet the August 1, 2009 deadline for submission of the application to EFC to be placed on the Annual List to become eligible for grants and loans, and possible stimulus money. Therefore, Bill Flood moved and Brad Rebillard seconded a motion to accept Version B: Amenia Sewer District Proposal July 2008 with Correction to Formula and the Removal of Lake Amenia Road. The motion was carried unanimously. Darlene Riemer will communicate this action to both Pete Setaro of Morris Associates and Michael Hayes, Town Attorney.

Michael Hayes has not yet given his opinion as to whether the proposal for the Amenia Sewer District can be presented to the voters with the understanding that it will only move forward if funding can be found to bring the Benefit Unit Cost down to an affordable level.

Fred Testa, NYSEFC, explained the different options available to the town to create the sewer district. A decision needs to be reached by the Town Board as to whether it will be a town sewer district or a Part-County district. If the Town ultimately builds the collection system and takes over the sewage treatment plant operation, the town could contract with DCWWA to operate and maintain it, but the town would be responsible for collecting taxes and user fees. In this scenario there are two options for obtaining approval from the voters in the sewer district: 1) form the district after receiving a petition from property owners in the proposed district; 2) form the district as a Town Board action subject to permissive referendum. If it were a Part-County sewer district, the County Legislature would have to adopt a resolution forming the district, which would then be subject to permissive referendum. DCWWA would operate and maintain the sewer system and residents of the district would pay their taxes and user fees to the county. The county is not eligible for USDA Rural Development money or for Community Development Block Grant money although both the Town and County are eligible for EFC assistance, which is why the Town is considering creating a Town sewer district. Either option of forming the

proposed sewer district requires completing SEQR for the collection system, preparing an Engineering Report, completing the Memorandum of Understanding with the developer, and holding at least one public hearing.

Next steps for the Wastewater Committee include finding out the real property value assessment for each of the parcels in the proposed sewer district. Vicki Doyle volunteered to work on that question. Candace Balmer of RCAP will be contacted to see whether the median income level of residents of the proposed district is lower than the median income level for the town at large. If so, that could improve the Town's score in its application for funding from EFC or USDA Rural Development.

Ed Mills recommended that the Town Board issue an RFP for the Engineering Report. The RFP should be issued as soon as possible so that the Engineering Report can be prepared and accepted before the August 1, 2009 deadline for the application to EFC. Fred Testa recommended that the Town contact George Popp of USDA Rural Development for a template for the Engineering Report, which generally follows the Ten State Standard. Ed Mills also will provide guidance to the Town as to what needs to be included. It was recommended that either the Wastewater Committee as a whole or representatives of it be included in the interview process for selecting the firm or the individual who will prepare the report.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

The next meeting is on **Monday, April 13, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Please note change of date from April 6, as per Pete Setaro's request.**

Respectfully submitted,

Janet M. Reagon, Secretary