

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

Attending:

Darlene Riemer, Chair
Bill Flood
Martin Grossman
Alison Hale
Janet Reagon, Secretary
Norm Cayea, Town Board
Vicki Doyle, Town Board

Absent:

Tony Robustelli
Brad Rebillard
Bill Carroll

Present by Invitation:

Ed Mills, DCWWA
Fred Testa, NYSEFC

Darlene Riemer chaired the meeting, which was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

Darlene Riemer moved and Alison Hale seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2009 meeting, with the corrected website. The motion was carried and the minutes will be posted on the town website.

Janet Reagon reported that she had been in contact with Amanda Boomhauer in Congressman Scott Murphy's Hudson office, and that they are interested in the sewer project. She made the motion, seconded by Martin Grossman, that a copy of the Engineering Report prepared by DCWWA be sent to Ms. Boomhauer. The motion was carried unanimously.

Ed Mills reported that the Agency would be circulating comments to Michael Hayes, Town Attorney, on the draft Memorandum of Understanding received from Silo Ridge. After obtaining his input, the comments will be sent to Silo Ridge. He also stated that DCWWA is prepared to adopt a Notice of Intent to be lead agency at its December meeting. This begins the SEQR process.

Bill Flood, Planning Board Chairman, reported that Silo Ridge needs to complete the MOU with the town and DCWWA and arrange for a conservation group to oversee the 80% open space in their project before site plan review is complete. They had six months from the granting of the Special Use Permit to complete the MOU. The National Audubon Society will oversee the golf course. The town must approve a transportation corporation for their wastewater system. There will be one part-county sewer district for the hamlet and another one for the Silo Ridge development. There was discussion about the location of the treatment plant. With two other proposed developments on Depot Hill that need sewage treatment systems, the Planning Board is concerned that there could be three different treatment plants within a few miles of each other. Members of the Wastewater Committee shared their concern, and expressed their view that the residents of Wassaic and the southern end of the town also need a sewage treatment system.

Fred Testa reported the good news that the federal budget bill included three times the usual amount of money for the capital grant for the state revolving fund, \$229 million. This is non-stimulus money. However, the subsidy line for funding is about 72 points, while Amenia has 46. Amenia's project would still be eligible for non-subsidized interest rate funding, and a hardship financing application should be filed. March 1, 2010 is the deadline to apply for financing from NYSEFC. Some communities do not meet the filing deadline, so money becomes available for those projects below the cutoff line. This allowed a project for the Town and Village of Red Hook to move forward. If Amenia's project were deemed hardship-eligible, it would be possible

to apply for an interest-free 30-year loan. In order to be ready for financing, all of the following would need to be completed within two years:

- *The Engineering Report and a regular application to EFC.
- *SEQR
- *SHPO review
- *Formation of the Sewer District
- *Passing of the Bond Resolution

In short, everything up to the design of the project must be done.

He emphasized the need to follow two parallel paths seeking funding: the first is loans or grants from NYSEFC, the other is loans or grants through Federal Rural Development.

Bill Flood remarked that it was his understanding that DCWWA has almost \$1 million in federal money because a sewer project in Hyde Park, for which federal money was allocated by Congress, is not going forward. It was agreed that Amenia should seek information about this money, and try to persuade the various government agencies that our project should be funded.

Darlene Riemer read a letter resigning as Chair of the Wastewater Committee because of her election to the Town Board. She expressed her desire to be appointed liaison to the committee because of her long-time commitment to the wastewater project. She named Janet Reagon to take over as Chair of the committee.

Members of the committee expressed their appreciation of all of her hard work for so many years, and expressed the hope that she will continue to attend meetings and provide her valuable input.

Janet Reagon expressed her willingness to serve as the Chair, subject to Town Board approval, and stated that she wished to meet with Darlene before the next meeting to assure a smooth transition.

Janet Reagon resigned her position as secretary, effective January 1, 2010, and Alison Hale volunteered to take her place.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

The next meeting is on **Monday, February 1, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,

Janet M. Reagon, Secretary