

Residents of Proposed Water District #6

After the meeting on November 9th there were a number of items discussed where the answers may not have been clear.

The history of the project is as follows: The Town Board had a public meeting to determine if there was interest in forming a district for the North West quadrant of the Town in November of 2018. The consensus of that meeting was that there was interest by the residents present to form a district to provide public water. Starting in December 2018 the Town Board has had WD#6 as an agenda item at their monthly Board meetings.

The Town Board had two options to form the district according to NYS law. The first one was just establish the district by Board resolution. The second option was to do a formal petition where a list of property owners in the district is created. Then petition carriers visit the property owners and ask them to sign the petition if they are in favor of establishing the district. The Board chose the formal petition method because they felt that it was the best way to determine resident support for establishing the water district. The petition was ready in the spring of 2020, but due to concerns about social distancing related to the COVID pandemic the six volunteer petition carriers did not start the petition process until late June 2020. The volunteer petition carriers went door to door to visit property owners.

The criteria required to form the district according to NYS law are to have signatures from **both** 50% of the resident property owners **and** 50% of all property owners in the district. On September 15th it was determined that 60% of the resident property owners and 56% of all property owners in the district had signed the petition agreeing to establish the water district. The petitions were then submitted to the Town Clerk to form the district. A public hearing was held on November 9, 2020 to provide residents the opportunity to speak in favor or against forming the water district.

The Town Board met with our Town attorney to discuss what our options were moving forward. The Town Board must answer (yes or no) to four questions to guide them in their decision to form the district:

1. Whether the petition is signed and acknowledged or proved as required by law and is otherwise sufficient
2. Whether all the property and property owners within the proposed district are benefited uniformly
3. Whether all the property and property owners benefited are included within the limits of the proposed water district
4. Whether it is in the public interest to grant in whole or in part the water district sought

The Board talked about the feedback they had received from residents after the public hearing and discussed the positives and negatives of establishing the district. The public hearing was the opportunity for all sides to express their opinions on establishing WD#6 and a decision will be made at the next Board meeting December 14th. Due to ever changing restrictions with the COVID pandemic the Board meeting will be limited to 10 in person participants, but will be available using Zoom. The meeting number and password will be posted on the Town website.

Thank you- David Miller, Town Supervisor