

Town Of Ulster Town Board
Public Hearing – The Formation of the East Kingston Water District
February 19, 2004 at 7:00 PM

Public Hearing was called to order by Chairperson, Supervisor Wadnola at 7:00 PM

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL BY CLERK

TOWN COUNCILMAN ARTIST
TOWN COUNCILMAN VAN KLEECK
TOWN COUNCILMAN BRINK – Absent
TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER WISE - Absent
SUPERVISOR WADNOLA

Supervisor Wadnola dispensed with the reading of the Public Notice to save time.

Mr. Denis Larios, the town engineer, gave a brief summary of the project and reviewed the proposed East Kingston Water District plan. He explained that the East Kingston hamlet had three options; (1) to create a water plant to filter water from the Hudson River, (2) to buy water from the Ulster Water District and (3) to buy water from the City of Kingston. The latter option would best meet the needs of the area and the cost considerations involved. The cost of the proposed water district would be \$2,760,300.00 with a tentative grant covering \$1,360,000.00 from the USDA and \$400,000.00 from the Governor's Office for Small Cities. Leaving the amount of \$1,000,000.00 to be financed.

Question from audience – What if I don't want water? How will that affect me?

Answer from Mr. Larios – You will not be forced to connect, nor pay a quarterly water bill for water you don't receive. But you will have to pay the water district tax, since you will reside in the district and have the option to always connect.

Mr. Mark Blauer, the Town Grant Writer, explained that the grant was written because most of the problems encountered in the hamlet were from water problems, consisting of bad tasting and smelling water, contamination and wells running dry. No water tests were handed in because most people didn't want to pay for a water test when they already knew their water was bad. Even though there was talk about a sewer system, it was decided that the water was the best alternative because of the affordability and improvement to the area.

Mr. Larios offered a cost comparison between well maintenance and municipal water. He explained that with municipal water comes better fire protection and insurance discounts. It further adds to property values and makes mortgages more obtainable.

The floor was opened to questions from the audience-
Summary of questions and answers:

Mr. Joe Riccardi – How much will the hook up costs be per lot?

Mr. Denis Larios - \$150. 00 per house for the Town inspection and water meter installation plus the cost of a private contractor to install the pipes from the town line to the house.

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Mr. Louis – Can you use your current well system?

Mr. Denis Larios - Yes, you can use your current well system as long as it does not cross connect and offers no back flow to the water district.

There was a lot of discussion from the audience among themselves about the project, mostly focusing of the benefit to the hamlet and its future. While the cost was a concern, Mr. Larios “home well maintenance” hand-out was an appreciated reference in the debates.

Mr. Denis Larios explained to the audience that it has come to his attention that there was a glitch in the \$1.3 million of federal grant, but those matters would be smoothed out by the Town Board. What this would mean is that half of the money would be given this fiscal year and the remainder would be given out in the next fiscal year.

A quick vote of hands was taken to see if the project was favorable to the area residents.

Results:

1 against - 1%
68 in favor - 99%

Councilman Artist motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM

2nd by Councilman Van Kleeck

All Ayes

Respectfully Submitted by
Jason Cosenza, RMC
Ulster Town Clerk