**WASTEWATER PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING**

**MARCH 26, 2025**

A Wastewater Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of the Town of Elizabethtown, County of Essex and State of New York was held at the Essex County Supervisors Chambers, 7551 Court Street, Elizabethtown, NY 12932 on March 26, 2025, and the public was welcome to attend.

PRESENT Cathleen Reusser-Supervisor

 Adam Bailey-Councilperson

 Jeffrey Allott-Councilperson

 Greg Swart from Suozzo, Doty & Associates

 Mike Martin Certified Lake Manager

(see attached for guest list and copy of slide presentation)

Start time: 6:00 PM

-Supervisor Reusser introduced Mr. Swart and Mr. Martin. She explained who is on the Wastewater Committee and gave background on the starts and stops of the project which dates to 1966.

-This meeting is to explain the results of the Preliminary Engineering Report regarding water sampling, and it was explained that this is the time to go for as much funding as possible.

-The District Boundaries were explained.

-Mr. Martin spoke about gathering the data regarding failing septic systems near the streams.

-There are 246 onsite septic systems within the sewer district with 83% being constructed between 1880 and 1976. Of the 246 systems, 235 are on site such as home or small business, and 11 are large businesses. Since 2019 only 6 new systems have been installed and only 9 systems have been repaired.

- He showed a map of the estimated timeline of the approximate install date for septic systems. It ran from 20 years old to maybe 100 years old.

-Many are inadequate and do not meet the current DOH design standards. He explained what the current regulations are.

-8 test stations were set up above and below the town with several different parameters being looked at to see if septic waste was leaching into the rivers. He explained the testing that was done weekly for 2 months.

-Fecal bacteria was higher downstream than upstream. E-Coli was higher upstream than down. Chloride levels were also higher downstream than up. He explained this. He said they did testing on the storm drain in the Essex County parking lot. They found extremely high numbers of bacteria that are flowing down to the river.

Dye testing was conducted. You flush the dye down a toilet to see if/ when it hits the body of water. High levels of dye were found leaching into Barton Brook from systems right on the brook’s edge.

-Supervisor Reusser explained the economic implications of not having a Wastewater system.

-Mr. Swart confirmed that the Golf Course site is where the plant will be located by the maintenance shed. Explained about the collection system. Will have to refine the details in the next couple of years. Plan to run the treated water back to the Boquet behind the cemetery or to River Street.

-Mr. Martin explained about the study of impact of discharging into the Boquet River. Right now, the septic systems are putting about 10 lbs. of phosphorus into the river but after treatment in the sewer plant it would only be about .1 lb. of phosphorus per day. Also, because the effluent will be disinfected there won’t be the same bacteria level going into the Boquet that we have now.

-Mr. Swart then discussed the cost, funding, applying for grants and the next steps.

-The Supervisor reminded the public that information regarding this is on the Town’s website and that the first Tuesday of every month is the Wastewater Meeting/Workshop at 1:30 PM. Also, the Regular Town Board Meeting is on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

-At this point the public asked questions.

This Public Hearing and Regular Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet E. Cross,

Town Clerk