

# TOWN OF SULLIVAN

County of Madison  
Town Office Building  
7507 Lakeport Road  
Chittenango, New York 13037  
Office: 315-687-9190  
Fax: 315-687-1123

John M. Becker  
Supervisor



May 6, 2022

**Re: Proposed Town of Sullivan Whitelaw Water District**

Dear Residence:

As many of you know, the Town of Sullivan Town Board had been approached with respect to the potential formation of a new Whitelaw Water District to serve certain properties along Whitelaw Road, Pine Ridge Road, Gee Road, Clark Road, Eddy Road and Waterbury Road. Previously, the Town had held a public information meeting regarding the proposed water system and the Town's consulting engineers, Barton & Loguidice, have prepared a Map, Plan and Report which is on file at the Town Hall and available for inspection during regular business hours.

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide an additional update on the status of the proposed District. Recently a resident from the proposed Water District area has been contacting property owners to determine whether they wish to sign the legal Petition for the formation of the District. Water Districts are "Special Service/Improvement Districts" which are authorized to be formed by Towns within New York State pursuant to two (2) different methods. The first method of formation is to follow procedures as outlined under *Town Law Article 12* -- also known as the "petition" method of formation. Article 12 provides that a District may be formed upon submission of a written petition, which must be signed by the owners of taxable real property located within the District owning in the aggregate at least one-half of the assessed value of all taxable real property and must include signatures of resident owners owning at least one-half of the assessed valuation of all taxable real property owned by said resident owners, all as shown on the latest completed assessment roll in the Town of Sullivan.

An alternative method to the formation of a District exists under *Article 12-A* wherein the Town Board votes to form the District in the first instance by Town Board resolution with such resolution being subject to either a permissive referendum or a mandatory referendum.

In this instance the Town has authorized the solicitation of signatures on the petition pursuant to Article 12 -- the "petition" method, rather than a formal referendum vote. In essence, your signature on the petition which is being circulated is effectively your "vote" for the District. There will be no separate election beyond the petition process. The alternative Article 12-A method by either a formal permissive referendum or mandatory referendum involves additional procedures and processes to be strictly followed in order for a District to be formed and comes at additional expense and time.

May 6, 2022

Page 2

Based upon public outreach and the prior meetings with residents on the proposed District, the Town Board is of the understanding that the Whitelaw Water District has substantial support. While it is understood that not every single owner within the proposed District would like to have public water service or participate in the Water District, the procedures of Article 12 -- petition method -- will be indicative of the strength of support for the formation and construction of the District.

If the petition receives the required signatures, additional procedures will be followed including at least one (1) public hearing at which the public will have an opportunity to further express its opinion on the formation of the District. Further, the Town has engaged its engineers to make application for various grant opportunities, as well as any low interest loan programs available to the Town for the District. For purposes of the proposed Whitelaw Water District, the Town will be seeking funding through the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (NYSEFC DWSRF), as well as the United State Department of Agriculture Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service Water and Environmental Programs (USDA RD WEP) and other potential sources of grant monies and low interest loans as they become available.

Should you have any questions regarding the petition process or the Water District generally, please refer to our website for additional information or call our assistant Dawn at the below telephone number.

Very truly yours,

Town of Sullivan Town Board  
315-687-9190