



TOWN OF PARISH

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To our Community Members who live in Water District #1:

The town and village of Parish are currently evaluating the feasibility of constructing a new potable water system to serve the residents & businesses within the boundaries of Water District No. 1.

The district was formed in **2018** and had a project budget of \$9,200,000 with an estimated first year user cost of \$639 for a typical single family home. The anticipated first year annual cost assumes that a typical single family residence would use approximately 54,000 gallons per year (150 gallons per day). The projected first year cost was determined assuming that the project would receive two grants from the New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) program. The anticipated first year user cost was based on a total of 429 equivalent dwelling units (EDUs). One EDU is equal to a typical single family residence.

The project budget was updated in **2020** for the preparation of funding applications. The updated project budget is \$16,630,520. This increase came from the preparation of a detailed project cost opinion that included updated pricing for project costs factored out for a probable construction year of 2023. A reassignment of the EDUs was also completed to meet the funding agency requirements. The updated EDU total is 552.0 and would result in an anticipated first year user cost of approximately \$909.32. To meet the new anticipated first year user cost, the project would need to secure grants totaling \$8,692,208. The project cannot move forward unless sufficient grant funds are secured so the estimated first year user cost is not more than \$909.32 per EDU.

As a point of comparison, the New York State Comptroller publishes a New York statewide average for water districts every year. In 2020, the statewide average was determined to be \$912. The anticipated first year user costs are less than this amount.

The town has passed a resolution to update the total project cost and anticipated first year user cost and a public hearing has been set for **December 2nd at 6:30 pm** to review this information (outlined above) in detail at the hearing. Residents are encouraged to attend to hear the presentation and ask questions. Due to the current COVID restrictions on gathering sizes, the public hearing will be held via Zoom (meeting ID: 844 2413 7530). Residents can register to comment, to ask questions at the meeting, or to attend the hearing in person (limited availability). Register by providing your name to the town supervisor at 315.625.4512 or by e-mail at townsupervisor@parish-ny.us, or the town clerk at 315.625.4507 or by e-mail at townclerk@parish-ny.us.

Below are some frequently asked questions that residents may find helpful prior to the public hearing.

Q: Who is in the current Water District No. 1 boundary?

A: A water district boundary map can be found on the Town's website (www.townofparish-ny.us)

Q: How does the increased project cost and estimated first year user cost affect me?

A: Per the original district formation documents established in September of 2018, a clerical error was made listing a typical home paying about \$639 per year. It should have been \$707.90 per the 2018 Engineering Report. Now with the updated total project cost and estimated first year user cost, a typical home would pay no more than \$909 per year (about \$76 per month). This results in an increase of about \$201 per year

(increase of about \$17 per month). A list showing the change in the anticipated first year user cost has been compiled and can be viewed on the town's website or in person at the town office.

Q: Why did my equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) assignment change?

A: Originally, the plan was that the project would receive two New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grants. One grant would be received by the village and one grant would be received by the town. The town has since learned that this is not a possibility for the project and other funding sources will have to be secured. One of the potential funding sources, USDA Rural Development, offers grants and loans based on multiple factors including similar systems cost (i.e., what other communities of similar size pay for a water district). To compare similar systems to this project, USDA Rural Development has specific requirements for EDU assignments and the previous EDU assignments were not compatible with their program.

A typical single family residence is considered one EDU. A two family house would be considered two EDUs and a three family house would be considered three EDUs. Apartment buildings would be assigned one EDU per apartment. Commercial properties are assigned EDUs based on their actual or estimated water usage compared to a typical single family residence (Example: if a property uses twice the amount of a typical single family residence, then they are assigned two EDUs). To see what your property's EDU assignment was previously and what it is now, a list has been compiled and is included with this letter, is also available on the town's website, and can be viewed in person at the town offices.

Q: What happens after the public hearing?

A: After the public hearing, a date will be set for a public vote on whether the total project cost and anticipated first year user cost should be increased. Only the property owners within the existing Water District No. 1 boundary can vote. If more than 50% of the property owners in the district vote to increase the total project cost and anticipated first year user cost, then the project moves forward, and the town begins working on securing funding for the project. The project only moves into design and construction if the necessary amount of funding can be secured. If the town only receives a portion of the needed funding, then the project does not move forward until all the funding is secured.

If the total project cost and anticipated first year user cost increase for the water district is voted down, the project will not move forward. The existing water district will remain as it currently stands, and the town may develop an alternative plan for moving forward.

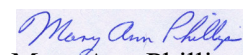
Q: Who gets to vote?

A: The property owners within the district boundaries whose names appear on the latest deed of record for the property are entitled to cast a vote. (Example: Husband and wife own a property and are both listed on the deed so each gets one vote; parent and children are listed as property owners so each gets one vote; etc.). If multiple properties within the district are owned by the same individual, that owner only gets a single vote.

If the deed lists a corporation, limited liability corporation, or partnership, it is considered a single owner with only one vote. Individuals that are unable to make it to the vote can request an absentee ballot.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this project.

Sincerely yours,



Mary Ann Phillips
Parish Town Supervisor