

## Open Letter to Town of Oswego Residents

Finally, after a long period of planning and grant applications, we are ready to proceed with the next steps for the Lakeshore Commercial Sewer District. As we move forward, I wanted to share some basic facts and provide a little background information. We intend to be able to provide more detailed information at the Public Hearing on Tuesday August 4, 2020 beginning at 6:00 at the Oswego Town Hall. At that time there will be a presentation by the Town's engineers, including maps and detailed reports. These maps and reports are currently available for viewing in the Oswego Town Hall.

First some basic facts:

- The new proposed district will cover the area on NYS Route 104 from approximately New Street west to midway between Fred Haynes Blvd and Jackim Road (roughly to the peak of the hill); will include all of Fred Haynes Blvd; and will include the area of County Route 89 roughly from the edge of the College property west to where the road crosses Rice Creek.
- A new sewer Special District will be formed, and all costs related to the district will be borne by businesses and residents within the district. As such, general taxpayers within the Town of Oswego will not bear additional expenses related to this project. Additionally, since it is a new district, not an extension of the Ontario Heights Sewer District, Ontario Heights users will not see additional expenses.
- The proposed sewer district is to provide 103 properties including businesses and residents, with sanitary sewer collection facilities. The Town received grant funding assistance from New York State for over 90 percent of the total estimated project cost of \$5.55 Million. The estimated first-year user-cost per EDU (Estimated Dwelling Unit) is \$800 per year. Efforts are on-going to reduce the first-year costs as much as possible.
- Current plans provide for the coverage of new laterals to residents within the overall project costs not as a separate fee.

Some back ground information:

An engineering study, completed in December of 2017 and authorized by the Oswego Town Board, recommended that there was a need for wastewater infrastructure for the Town's Route 104 commercial corridor. While provision of sewer infrastructure would likely increase the likelihood of commercial development, a project to provide coverage to the entire area was not economically feasible. However, as a result of the flooding and high levels of Lake Ontario in 2017, FEMA declared a disaster in the area and noted that septic systems along the shoreline were compromised. This was aggravated by further flooding and high Lake Ontario water levels in 2019. NY State, through the REDI (Lake Ontario Resiliency & Economic Development Initiative) awarded a grant of \$4.5 million for a sewer project in the area. The Town of Oswego has obtained additional funding for the project.

Rick Kaulfuss, Town Supervisor