

TOWN OF NEW BALTIMORE
SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1 NEWS
July 2013

Wastewater services are not free. There may be miles of underground pipes in your community removing waste. Much of our nation's wastewater infrastructure is old and deteriorating. Breaks and other disruptions are becoming increasingly common and expensive to address.

In 2010, local governments spent \$224 million on wastewater systems. However, they will need to invest \$36 billion by 2030 to ensure that safe wastewater services continue.

By 2020, over 30% of US drinking water and wastewater professionals are expected to retire. Currently, there are not enough workers being trained to replace them in this highly skilled profession.

Are your local officials planning for repairs, infrastructure replacement and emergencies? Over the next 20 years, New York will need over \$75 billion to address aging water and wastewater infrastructure. Natural disasters can wreak havoc on wastewater systems. The effects of hurricanes and major storms highlight the value of water.

Our Sewer District No. 1 is 30 years old!

- Last year, a preliminary engineering study was done and was reviewed by the Town's engineers. December 10, 2012: the Board established the 2013 use charges for the District.
- January 14, 2013: the Board accepted a planning grant of 80% of the engineering for the District improvements.
- May 13, 2013: the Board set a public hearing regarding the increase and improvement of facilities of the Sewer District No. 1.
- June 10, 2013: the Town Board, hearing no objections from the sewer district residents at the public hearing, voted to move forward, passing a bond resolution for the purpose of approving increase and improvement of facilities within the Sewer District No.1; Engineer has estimated the total cost of the Mill Street Pump Station Upgrade project not to exceed \$230,808.

Yearly renewable bond anticipation notes may be rolled into a low-interest bond, and allow the Board time to decide about the other proposed improvements (larger in scope) and to pursue a project financing and/or loan agreement with the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation and/or the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and/or the New York State Department of Health.

This obligation, taken by the Town Board, is paid only by the Sewer District No. 1 residents. An income survey of the Sewer District is proposed for this summer in order to apply for hardship funding. Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), funded by the US Dept of Agriculture, provides such a service to communities. If property owner lives elsewhere and a renter lives in District, the person who fills out the survey is the renter who will benefit by the reduction of the interest rate; if it is an owner-occupied property, then the owner will be surveyed; commercial customers are not included, just users.

The survey will go to everyone with a letter from your town board why it is okay to talk to RCAP. Asking for honesty and completely anonymous, the survey goes into a preaddressed envelope to a processing center in Massachusetts. Our official newspaper, The Daily Mail, will publish an article, door-to-door volunteers will go with same form and same letter to a list of houses that didn't respond, and ask them to fill it out privately, seal, and hand it to them. Analysis was provided comparing what it would cost with assistance from programs requiring this income survey, and without the income survey. *{See the Town website www.townofnewbaltimore.org for further information.}*