

**TOWN OF NEW HAVEN PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING PROPOSED
WATER DISTRICT #3 HELD JUNE 8, 2005 7:00 PM**

Attendance: There were approximately 50 residents, in addition to Supervisor Downing, Councilman Parkhurst, Councilman Bristol, Councilwoman Schmidt, and Town Clerk Allen in attendance. Representatives from Burley-Guminiak & Associates were Bob Guminiak, John Woods and Jake Berkman.

Purpose of Meeting: To hear comments in favor of and opposed to the formation of public about proposed water district #3. Notice of Public Hearing was legally advertised and posted. Letters were also sent to homeowners in the district informing them of the meeting.

Presentation: Robert Guminiak presented the proposed water district and explained the benefits, what is involved in implementation, and the cost.

Commits: Bill Woolson emphatically expressed his objection to the water district, asking why Scriba is paying less than New Haven. He stated that Scriba is paying \$275. He also asked why he cannot vote if his name is not on the deed. Mr. Woolson did promptly left the room without allowing anyone to answer his questions. After Mr. Woolson left the room it was explained that NY State determines who is eligible to vote. It was also explained that vacant parcels, not hooked up to the water pay a lower rate. Vacant parcels in New Haven will also pay half an EDU. Scriba's cost has gone down due to additional homes being built.

An unidentified gentleman asked if Scriba arranged for us to get on the system to lower their costs. It was explained that New Haven's districts are totally separate from Scriba. The Town will be contracting with Scriba to provide operation and maintenance as well as billing for New Haven. This will keep the cost down for the Town of New Haven, as we will not be duplicating services.

Brenda McAuslin stated that there was no environmental impact statement on file, there is a full environmental impact assessment on file and due to the results of the environmental impact assessment there is not and will not be an environmental impact statement. She pointed out that those who determine the significance may have little or no formal knowledge of the environment and may not be experts in environmental analyses. It was explained that the Environmental Review was submitted to many state, federal, environmental and other agencies for review. None had comments on it. Brenda addressed the additional water that will be introduced into the ground water in the area. It was explained that additional water would amount to the equivalent of 1/10 inch of rain per year. The average rainfall for New Haven is 40 inches per year. She questioned why she should pay for water for her neighbor.

An unidentified woman stated that she has to pay for water to be hauled in from Watertown because of a shortage of water haulers in this area.

Linda Williams stated that she was willing to pay for the water for the good of the town. She also stated that because some of the water haulers in the area are no longer hauling water the price has increased from \$30 per load to \$56 per load. She went on to say that because the town has not welcomed business in the past, taxes were high, and we need some business to share the tax burden and create jobs. The water will bring business and new homes to share the tax burden. She stated, "I for one am more than willing to share with my neighbors."

Brenda McAuslin asked if we get water would we also need sewer? She then asked what sewer would cost.

Kim. Fralick stated that she was a widow with two small children. She has a good well and a water system. She stated that she needs to show that she was the beneficiary of her husband's estate in order to vote. She pointed out that there was a typo on the slide at the previous meeting giving the wrong date for this meeting. It was pointed out that the typo was corrected at that meeting and made discussed.

Fred Wilbur asked how the area the district was determined. It was explained that issues that went into consideration in determining the layout included eliminating existing water problems and making the system work efficiently. Mr. Wilbur asked if when the next district is formed if a water tank will be required and what affect that would have on the currently proposed district. It was explained that if another district is formed it may need a water tank, but the cost of that tank would be included in that district and would have no impact on the current district.

Theron Lucas asked if Scriba completed their districts on schedule. The answer was yes. He asked if the project would be done in approximately 2 years after construction started. Bob Guminiak said "correct 100% done". He continued to state that as lines are built, flushed and tested people would be allowed to hook up. In Scriba people were stated to be hooked up about three months after construction started. Mr. Lucas asked what the

construction schedule would be. It was explained that the contractor would develop the construction schedule, but most likely they would start at the Scriba line and work east, because they will need a water source.

Linda Bond-Clark stated that her family has been in town for 150 years and while some people have lived in the town for only a few years. She objected to not being told that there was no environmental impact study was done. She stated that after the last meeting she asked Mr. Wood about the map and what was mapped out correctly and what was mapped out wrong. She said she asked him about the consequences of the environmental impact, and he said he didn't care. She stated that New Haven is very wet. She said that when she worked on the RAD dump coming in there were environmental concerns and she didn't understand why they were not put in the environmental review. She pointed out that Albright Rd, where she lived is not in the district because they didn't want public water. She then stated that she thought they should be allowed to vote because they would be flooded out by additional water coming into the town. She would like to see the town stop giving variances for parcels under 2 acres. She said people should be made to make sure you have a water supply before they can build on a lot. She then stated that if people get their water from the ground they will have stewardship to the ground and will not pollute it. She stated "I do not mind paying those taxes if it mean that I don't have to live next to a junkyard or an industry".

Dave VonHoltz the local fire chief stated that hydrants would benefit the fire department by increased safety. Fewer tankers on the road result in fewer accidents. Tankers have the highest accident rate of all emergency vehicles. Increased water supply would improve ability to fight fires. Manpower to fight a fire would be decreased, as fewer firefighters would be required to haul water. Fewer roads would be blocked during a fire because of fewer vehicles needed to fight the fire. Less liability to the fire department for damage to equipment called for mutual aid. Insurance premiums for homeowner may increase due to increased ISO rating of the fire department.

Chuck Yablonski asked why the fire hydrants are so close together. It was explained that NYS Health Dept required them to be 600 feet apart or less. Chuck pointed out that people, who have two adjoining pieces of property, with the same name on the deed, may be able to join them for tax purposes. This will result in not having to pay on the debt on the pipe separately on each piece. He also clarified that the Town did not get a grant this year but will apply each year to try to bring the cost of the debt on the pipe down. He asked about the health risks mentioned earlier. It was explained that e-coli has been found in some wells other contaminants. Chuck questioned why the town was stopping ten feet from homes. It was explained that this was to prevent liability problems. Chuck expressed concern about leaks caused by connections in the pipe. It was explained that because the copper would be difficult to bend to put through the cellar wall, most people would end up cutting it anyway.

Brenda McAuslin stated that Lake Ontario is the most polluted of the Great Lakes. She went on to say that if a well is done properly and the septic is done properly, there will be no problem with the water.

An unidentified man asked how a mobile home without a basement would be hooked up. It was explained that the pipes and meter would have to be insulated. He asked about vacant unbuildable properties. It was explained that unbuildable land would not be charged and property classified as agricultural, with no residence on it and no tap, will not be charged.

An unidentified man asked when bills would start. It was explained that the first payment on the debt on the pipe would be on the taxes in January 2008. Water usage will be build quarterly starting when the water is hooked up. He also stated that the letter everyone received had the correct date for this meeting, therefore the typo which was corrected last week should not have caused any confusion.

An unidentified woman asked about a fee to turn the water on and off for seasonal residents. She asked if a property owner who does not live in the state get to vote. The answer was yes.

It was explained that every person who's name is currently on the deed gets a vote. Anyone who owns multiple properties gets only one vote. There will be no absentee votes.

Kim Fralick asked about what she needed to show to vote the property is an estate. She will need to bring her paper from the Segregate Court.

The rules for voting come from NYS law. Everyone who is eligible to vote should get a letter. Anyone who does not get a letter should call the town clerk. The Town's web site is www.newhavenny.com. There is a link to the presentation from this meeting and other information there.

Adjournment: The meeting was closed at approximately 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Debra J Allen
New Haven Town Clerk