

Municipal Water Options Presented and Discussed, April 17, 2023

The Queensbury Town Board presented two possible options for bringing municipal water to eastern parts of the community, including the Jenkinville neighborhood, at a community informational meeting on April 17, 2023.

With one potential route, water lines would be installed along Ridge, Stonehurst, Sunnyside East and Jenkinville roads, serving 176 parcels at an estimated cost of \$5.9 million. With a second potential route, water lines would be installed along Ridge Road, east through the Jenkinville Town Park, Old Cronin Road and along Jenkinville Road, with 187 parcels served at a cost of \$6.5 million. ([See Town Board PowerPoint presentation here](#)) Fire hydrants would also be installed.

With either option, property owners who decide to accept municipal water would pay an estimated \$400 to \$575 per year based on the assessed value of their properties and average water usage. For those property owners who opted not to accept municipal water, the annual cost is estimated at \$145 to \$320.

The estimates do not reflect state or federal aid which the town will pursue and which, if received, would result in lower costs. The Town is also exploring the possibility of covering town property owners' cost of hooking up to the new water supply, if one is established, for a defined period of time.

Several residents of the Stonehurst neighborhood (Option 1) said they were not interested in being part of a new municipal water district. No objections or concerns were expressed about the second option.

Town Supervisor John Strough said he was committed to bringing municipal water to the Jenkinville community, but not committed to any particular option. Town Board Member Harrison Freer said any decision about installing municipal water service would be made by a majority vote of the Town Board. As indicated prior to the meeting, the Town Board made no decision on the matter on April 17. It will continue to explore the options and seek community input, as it seeks to provide municipal water service that is affordable, beneficial, and attractive to the majority of residents in the area.

In May 2021, the Queensbury Town Board resolved to work with state agencies and Jenkinville residents to address environmental conditions in the area, with a focus on protecting human health and the environment. In February 2022, the Town engaged C.T. Male to explore alternative options for municipal water service. Town Board Member Tim McNulty stressed that the Town Board chose to be proactive after the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) expressed concern about potential contamination of drinking water wells near the town landfill and other landfills.

DEC's focus is on emerging contaminants polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and 1,4-Dioxane.

DEC and the Department of Health sampled drinking water wells in the area of the landfills and found no PFAS that exceeded state drinking water standards. In some wells, 1,4-Dioxane was detected but at levels that the state said did not pose a significant health risk.

During the informational meeting, DEC representatives reported that their study of the site is continuing. The Department's investigations in 2021 and 2022 ultimately were not conclusive in identifying a source or sources of the contaminants. DEC now plans to install deep monitoring wells in the area south of the landfill complex, including within the residential areas along Mud Pond Road, Azure Drive, Rainbow Trail, and Ridge/Jenkinsville Park area. These wells will be sampled to determine precise groundwater flow direction and better understand the mobility of contamination in the groundwater.

This next phase of DEC's work will take place this spring and summer, and DEC said it will issue an interim report of findings via a Community Update along with links to the final work plan when available. In the meantime, bottled water is still being delivered to residents whose wells showed signs of contamination.

A Queensbury resident attending the meeting inquired about laboratories to analyze the quality of her well water. A list of New York State-certified water testing laboratories has been posted on this web site.