

**TOWN OF BINGHAMTON**  
**TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION**  
**September 1, 2020**

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**MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN BOARD HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020, 5:30 P.M., TOWN OF BINGHAMTON TOWN HALL, 279 PARK AVENUE, BINGHAMTON, NEW YORK.**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Rounds at 5:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

E. Rounds, Supervisor	Present	M. Leighton, Councilperson	Absent
V. Xlander, Deputy Supervisor	Present	M. Bensley, Councilperson	Present
D. Nye, Councilperson	Present		

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

V. Conklin, Town Clerk  
R. Pope, Deputy Town Attorney  
R. Rolston, Highway Superintendent  
P. Wagner, Deputy Highway Superintendent  
N. Pappas, Code Enforcement Officer/Buildings & Grounds  
G. Tagliaferri, Chairperson, ZBA  
G. Basila, Southern Tier 8  
1 Guest

Supervisor Rounds made the following statement: A motion may be made to go into an executive session to discuss a legal matter and/or a personnel matter regarding a particular employee after the meeting is convened.

**APPROVAL OF AUDITED CLAIMS:**

Councilperson Xlander made the motion to adopt a Resolution to approve the following claims as audited:

<u>2020</u>			
Lighting	Claim No. 659-660	\$	594.35
Sewer	Claim No. 661	\$	74.38
Water	Claim No. 662-669	\$	3,354.11
Highway	Claim No. 670-682	\$	10,653.04
General	Claim No. 683-701	\$	9,524.74

The motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Bensley. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. A roll call vote resulted in the following:

Ayes: Rounds, Xlander, Nye, Bensley      Absent: Leighton

Nays: None

Declared adopted.

(Resolution Appended)

## **RECOGNITION OF MINUTES:**

There were no changes/corrections made to the August 18, 2020 regular Town Board meeting minutes. Supervisor Rounds made the following clarification concerning the comment she made at the August 18, 2020 regular Town Board meeting regarding the membership of the Solar Energy Committee: I had referred to what the members' backgrounds were, and did not want anyone to think that I was speaking that the members of the Solar Energy Committee were, as a representative, representing NYSEG or Broome County. They were just Town of Binghamton concerned, active residents, but their backgrounds happened to be that one of them worked for NYSEG, and a couple of them worked for Broome County, but did not want that to be anything of me stating that they were working on behalf of those organizations.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Labor Day – TOB Municipal Buildings Closed – Monday, September 7, 2020 in Observance of Labor Day

Highway Department – Tree Branch and Brush Pick Up – September 8 thru September 30, 2020

TOB Historical Society – Remembering When Annual Luncheon – September 19, 2020 – Cancelled

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

MS4 Presentation – George Basila, Water Quality Program Coordinator for the Southern Tier 8 Regional Board, made the following presentation: We are working with the Broome/Tioga Stormwater Coalition. There are 15 municipalities that make up the MS4 region. MS4 is an acronym that the EPA and the State DEC uses for our storm sewer area. The 15-municipality coalition is working together to keep our EPA general permit for stormwater in effect. One of the guidelines that the DEC would like to accomplish is, in order to keep the general permit in effect for each one of the towns, to set up a storm sewer shed. Rainfall runoff, when it is not in permeable areas (i.e., parking lots), can get into your storm sewer system device, your curb cuts, your storm drains, potentially into catch basins, and then in an outfall, and that outfall is either going to go into another municipality, the City or Vestal, or into a waterway. The State is trying to create a digital model of this flow of water through this storm sewer network. The Southern Tier 8 received a grant several years ago, and some of the monies that the Town is matching for this grant is being used to collect this data, and create this storm sewer shed. Mr. Basila is in the process right now of collecting data, and trying to see what exists, and what has been mapped already, by generally the County people, the GIS office, and the engineering office as well. Mr. Basila provided a map that shows catch basins and outfalls that the County has already collected using GPS receivers. Mr. Basila will work with the TOB Highway Department to collect existing data for the Town to be input into the system to assist in providing a complete map of stormwater assets and interconnections between all municipalities in the MS4 area. Questions were asked and answered. Copies of the handouts are appended hereto.



## **OFFICIALS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Planning Board – The next regularly scheduled meeting will be a joint meeting with the ZBA to be held on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the TOB Town Hall. Town Attorney Pope will be having a legal corner presentation. Supervisor Rounds explained that under New Business the Board will be making a motion to send the proposed Solar Energy Systems Law to the Planning Board for their advisory opinion. The Public Hearing has been set for October 20, 2020 to approve the proposed Solar Energy Systems Law. Supervisor Rounds will be in contact with Planning Board Chairperson Streno, who may want to have a meeting to make sure that the members on the Planning Board have an opportunity to review the proposed Solar Energy Systems Law. Deputy Town Attorney Pope will be sending the proposed Solar Energy Systems Law to Chairperson Streno.

Zoning Board of Appeals – The next regularly scheduled meeting will be a joint meeting with the Planning Board to be held on Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the TOB Town Hall. Town Attorney Pope will be having a legal corner presentation. There may be a case to be heard at the October 19, 2020 meeting.

Youth Commission – The season has been extended for three weeks. There has been ten people that have paid registration fees for the Teener League.

Code Enforcement/Buildings & Grounds – 609 Morgan Road will be demolished in the very near future. The installation of the new boilers has been completed. The Town will be receiving a \$1,000 rebate through NYSEG for the new boilers. The boiler room will be cleaned up and painted. The back room will be turned into more of a storage room for the Town Clerk's overflow of records.

Highway Department – The original contract for sewer lining will begin next week, and should be completed by the end of next week. Once the lining is complete, work will begin on the storm drain. Brush cutting is taking place. Everyone at the Highway Garage has completed their 2020 sexual harassment training.

TOB Volunteer Fire Co. – Supervisor Rounds announced that the TOB Volunteer Fire Co. applied for, and has been awarded an AFG grant in the amount of \$600,000 to be split among four departments. Each Volunteer Fire Co. will receive \$150,000. The AFG grant monies are for SCBAs (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus).

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Water/Sewer Rates – Updated Proposal – Last week Supervisor Rounds met with Highway Superintendent Rolston, Water Foreman Lee Cooper, and Councilperson Bensley to fine tune the proposed water and sewer rates that will become effective in February of 2021. The current rate is \$8.63 per unit, which will increase to \$11.80 per unit. The current water rate is \$5.82 per unit, which will increase to \$7.30 per unit. The proposal for Parkwood Subdivision will remain at the \$195 quarterly flat rate, as the Parkwood Subdivision is not part of the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant, and are not part of the Town's billing for water/sewer. The sewer only flat rates are

for residents that have sewer available to them, but do not have meters. The sewer only flat rates will increase as follows:

- 1 bedroom (based on 150 gallons per day) will increase from \$118.06 to \$161.50
- 2 bedrooms (based on 300 gallons per day) will increase from \$236.11 to \$323.02
- 3 bedrooms (based on 400 gallons per day) will increase from \$314.81 to \$430.70
- 4 bedrooms (based on 475 gallons per day) will increase from \$373.84 to \$511.45
- 5 bedrooms (based on 550 gallons per day) will increase from \$432.87 to \$592.21

A public hearing to change the water/sewer rates prior to the next water meter reading on October 23, 2020 is scheduled for September 15, 2020 at 7:01 p.m. An updated copy of the Proposed Water/Sewer Rates sheet is appended hereto. There was some discussion.

CDBG – Summary Update – Supervisor Rounds had a telephone conference call between the Town's representative at the State, and Charles Phillion, Program Director for NYS Homes and Community Renewal, and Annette and Rich from Thoma regarding a summary of the CDBG grant. More houses than not are just about completed. There is \$72,780 available, but there are three houses that are in the queue. There were two houses that Thoma Development used as sample homes when they applied for the CDBG grant. One of the purposes of this meeting was to make sure we are on track, but because of the COVID shutdowns, an extension may be offered if some municipalities are not close to completing the projects because of COVID. Thoma believes the Town is in good shape as far as completing the projects by January 24, 2021. The Town will be applying for another CDBG grant, which is in the Town's proposed 2021 budget, but the application process had not yet been announced by the State.

There was no further unfinished business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS (Continued):**

2021 Budget Process Begins – 2021 budget worksheets have been provided to Department Heads, and are due back to Bookkeeper Reifler September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Solar Energy Systems Law – A motion was made by Councilperson Nye to send the proposed Solar Energy Systems Law to the TOB Planning Board for an advisory opinion, and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Xlander. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

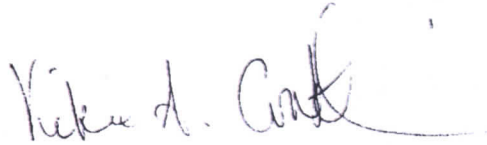
There was no further new business.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilperson Bensley to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 p.m., and the motion was duly seconded by Councilperson Nye. All those present voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

The next meeting of the Town of Binghamton Town Board will be a regular Town Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 15, 2020, at the Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, NY.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Vickie A. Conklin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vickie A. Conklin  
Town Clerk

## RESOLUTION

At a regularly scheduled Work Session of the Town Board of the Town of Binghamton, Broome County, New York, duly called and held at the Town Hall, 279 Park Avenue, Binghamton, New York, on the 1st day of September, 2020 at 5:30 o'clock P.M. of said day, the following were:

PRESENT: Supervisor Elizabeth Rounds  
Councilperson Victoria L. Xlander  
Councilperson Michael Bensley  
Councilperson Dean Nye

ABSENT: Councilperson Mark Leighton

The Resolution set forth below was duly offered by Councilperson Xlander, who moved its adoption, and was seconded by Councilperson Bensley.

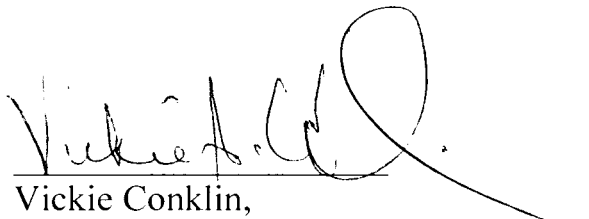
A roll call vote was then taken upon the Motion for the adoption of said Resolution, which resulted as follows:

AYES: Supervisor Elizabeth Rounds  
Councilperson Victoria L. Xlander  
Councilperson Michael Bensley  
Councilperson Dean Nye

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Councilperson Mark Leighton

The Resolution was then declared adopted.

  
Vickie Conklin,  
Town Clerk

**RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS**, by motion Councilperson Xlander has recommended that the Town Board approve claim numbers 659-660; 661; 662-669; 670-682, and 683-701 as audited, and

**WHEREAS**, the specific audited claims are as set forth in the attachment.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it

**RESOLVED**, that claim numbers 659-660; 661; 662-669; 670-682, and 683-701 as audited are hereby adopted and approved; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Supervisor and such other Town officials are authorized to take such additional and further action as is necessary to implement this Resolution.



## SOUTHERN TIER 8 REGIONAL BOARD WORKS WITH BROOME TIOGA STORMWATER COALITION TO REDUCE MUNICIPAL COSTS & SATISFY UPCOMING STORMWATER REGULATIONS.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 4th, 2020

Since 2014, Southern Tier 8 Regional Board has been working with **15 municipalities in the Broome Tioga Stormwater Coalition to share services and reduce municipal costs to meet state & federal stormwater pollution regulations.**

The municipalities located in Broome and Tioga Counties are regulated by EPA and NYS DEC to prepare and implement a stormwater management plan and later this year, NYS DEC will release a new permit to expand several requirements.

### OUR FUNDING STRATEGY AND GOALS.

Southern Tier 8 Regional Board recognized DEC's request of additional reporting requirements for each municipality in the design-named **MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM SEWER SYSTEMS (MS4)** district. To assist each municipality and satisfy the new requirements, the Regional Board **applied** for grant-funding and **secured 75% of the multi-year project cost** from DEC **to help each municipality meet the new requirements.** As part of this **shared service program**, **each municipality is accountable for two annual payments of \$2,200** to meet the match requirements (not to extend beyond 2023).

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT?

This Asset Mapping Project (AMP) program will help the municipalities with compliance efforts to **provide a complete map of stormwater assets and interconnections** (Catch Basins, Manholes and Outfalls) between all municipalities in the MS4 area.

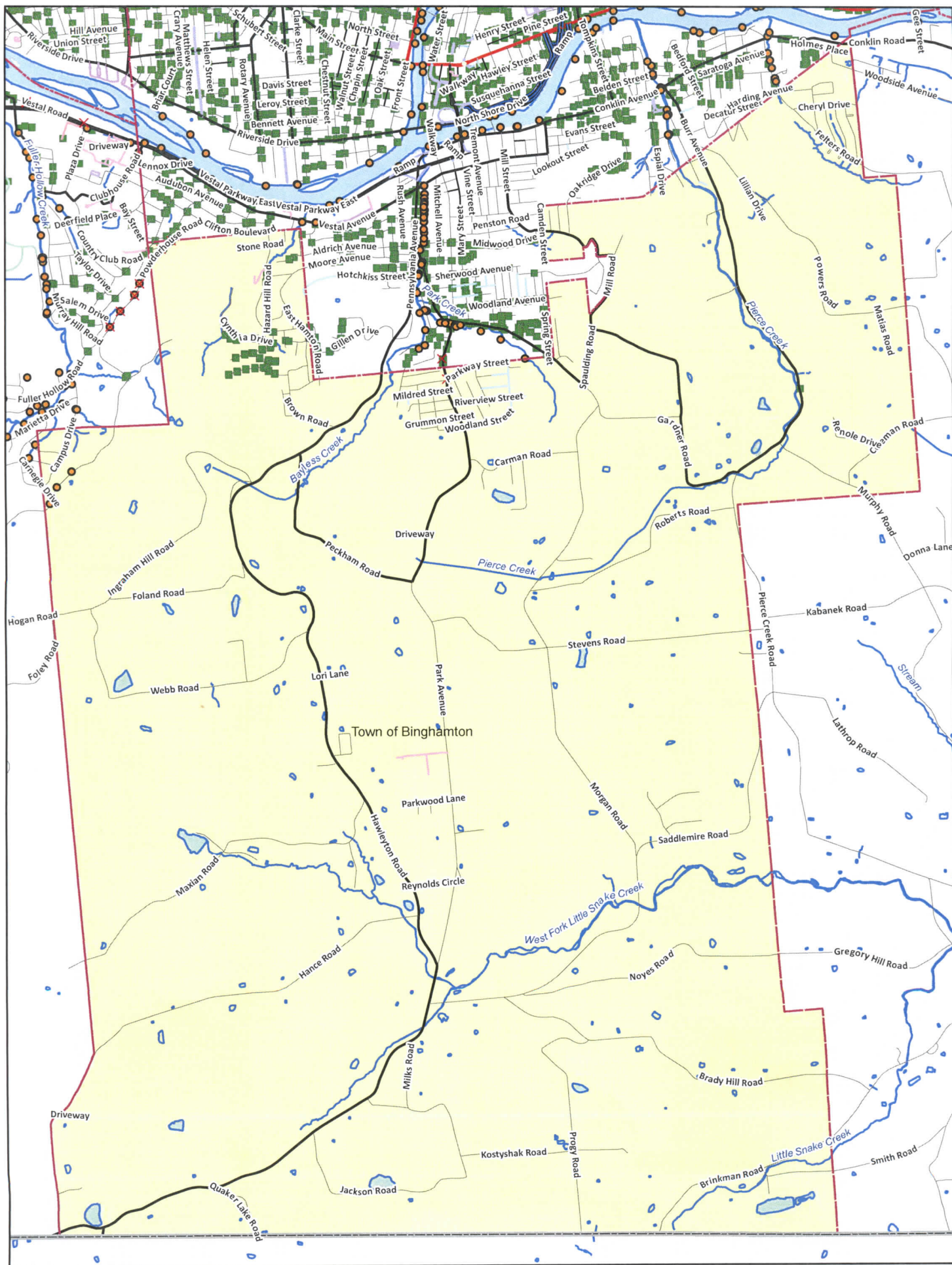
**The health of our community** is of the utmost importance. **Water quality and safety standards are key elements that play a vital role in our community's well-being, health, and overall quality of life.** In order to keep our residents healthy and thriving, **especially during this critical time of the pandemic and in the next phase of recovery**, it is **imperative that we continue to fund, grow, and support our shared water quality programs.**

### WHO DOES THIS AFFECT?

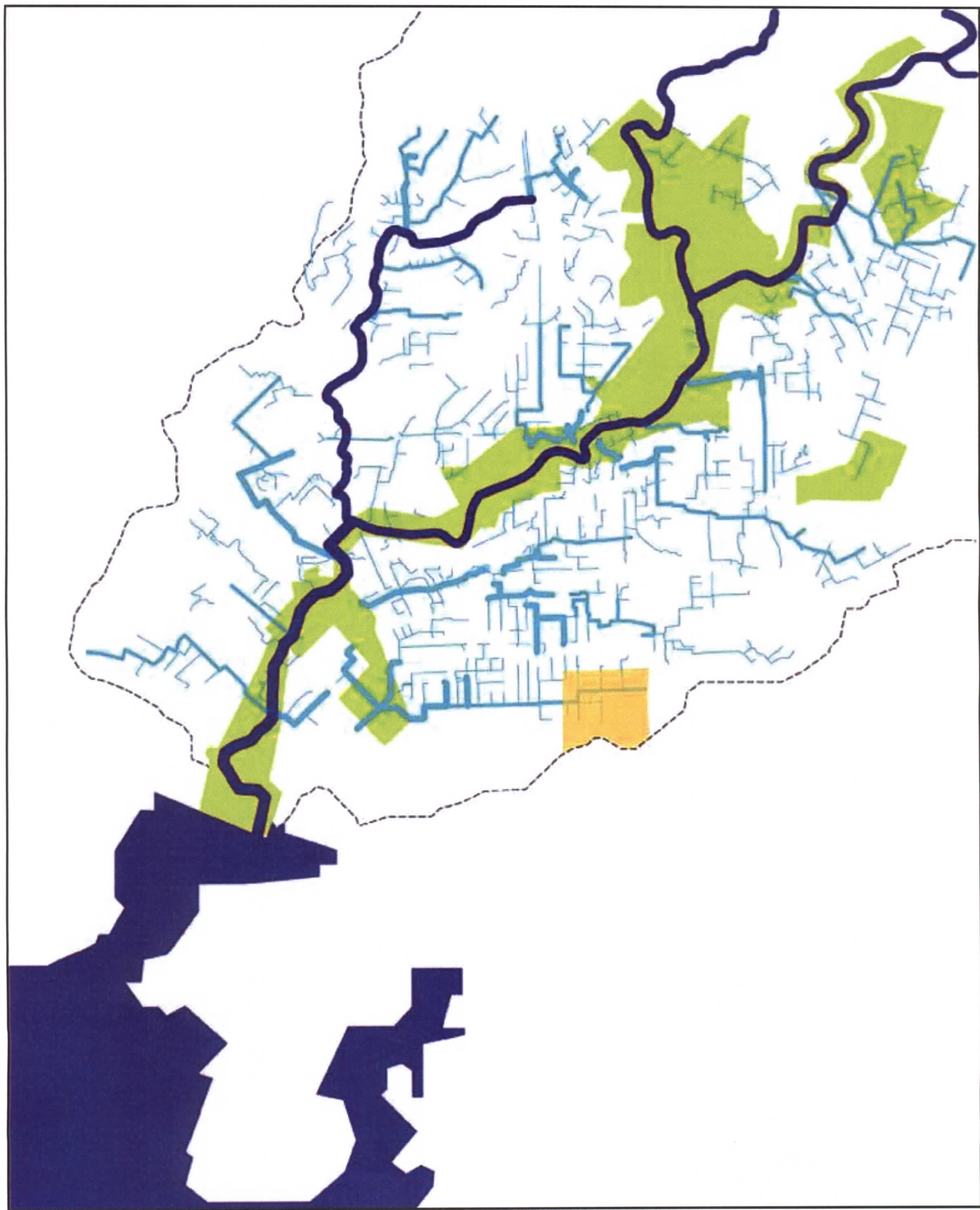
Municipalities include Broome County, City of Binghamton, Town of Binghamton, Town of Chenango, Town of Conklin, Town of Dickinson, Village of Endicott, Town of Fenton, Village of Johnson City, Town of Kirkwood, Village of Port Dickinson, Town of Union, Town of Vestal, Tioga County, Town of Owego.

### PROJECT TEAM & PRACTICES.

The Regional Board recently hired George Basila, bringing 25 years of experience in GIS mapping, planning and stormwater compliance from northeastern Pennsylvania. For more about stormwater practices, please see the website [www.waterfromrain.com](http://www.waterfromrain.com) For more about DEC's MS4 new permit requirements, please see the website [https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/ms4factsheet2016.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/ms4factsheet2016.pdf)







# PROPOSED WATER/SEWER RATES TO BECOME EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 2021 BILLING

## **SEWER - \$8.63 per unit will increase to \$11.80 per unit**

Joint Sewage Board charges \$101,676 four times a year = \$406,704.00

The Town bills residents four times per year:

Nov. 2019	90,557.00
Feb. 2020	86,659.26
May 2020	84,536.96
Aug. 2020	<u>94,930.84</u>

Total billed to residents: \$356,684.06

Shortfall of: \$50,019.94

Current sewer rate is \$8.63 per unit (1,000 gallons)

Proposed 2021 bill from Joint Sewage Board: \$103,000.00

Using a new proposed sewer rate of \$11.80 per unit x 10,000 units = \$118,000.00.

This increase will cover our projected cost increase, and it will also cover the shortfall listed above.

## **WATER - \$5.82 per unit will increase to \$7.30 per unit**

City of Binghamton bills us three times a year = \$237,458.\*

\* 1/2020 - \$71,163; 4/2020 - \$68,820; 8/2020; \$97,494.80

The Town bills residents four times a year:

Nov. 2019	51,494.28
Feb. 2020	48,701.23
May 2020	47,454.53
Aug. 2020	<u>55,281.61</u>

Total billed to residents: \$202,931.65

Shortfall of: \$ 34,526.35

Current water rate is \$5.82 per unit (1,000 gallons)

Proposed **new water rate would be \$7.30 per unit** (1,000 gallons).

Using the new proposed water rate of \$7.30 per unit (1,000 gallons):

$$34,526.35 \times \$7.30 = \$252,042.36$$

## **PARKWOOD SUBDIVISION: Rates remain the same - \$195 flat rate**

### **SEWER ONLY FLAT RATES (based on number of bedrooms):**

- 1 bedroom** (based on 150 gallons per day) will increase from \$118.06 to \$161.50
- 2 bedrooms** (based on 300 gallons per day) will increase from \$236.11 to \$323.02
- 3 bedrooms** (based on 400 gallons per day) will increase from \$314.81 to \$430.70
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