

NEWS

RENSSELAER COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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Democratic Legislators Applaud Bipartisan Action on Shared Sewer Service Initiative

Troy—A resolution supporting the application for a \$400,000 State shared services grant was passed by the Rules Committee of the county legislature at the January 7 meeting. The approved grant application will be submitted by the Rensselaer County Water and Sewer Authority, the Rensselaer County Sewer District #1 and the Town of East Greenbush to pursue a joint municipal agreement implementing cost effective improvements to the delivery of sewer services for the Town of East Greenbush. The resolution will be voted on by the full legislature at the meeting on January 13.

“We’re very gratified to see this project moving forward with bipartisan support at both county and town levels. It’s been in the works for quite a while—our discussions regarding this project started with former East Greenbush Town Supervisor Bob Angelini and have been ongoing with the current supervisor, Rick McCabe, who has worked diligently on this initiative. The collaboration of town officials with County Planning and the County Executive has been crucial. This is a great example of the way government can work,” said Minority Leader Ginny O’Brien (D/East Greenbush, North Greenbush, Poestenkill).

Project plans include the installation of a bypass pipeline that would redirect a portion of waste from the East Greenbush sewage treatment facility to Rensselaer County’s Sewer treatment plant. The plan will increase system capacity and also includes infrastructure improvements at a savings of around \$3 million compared to alternative plans. These investments will improve waste treatment and reduce odors at the East Greenbush facility. The county would receive revenue based on the volume of waste directed through the bypass pipeline for treatment at the County’s sewage treatment plant.

“This project represents a ‘win-win’ situation for the Town of East Greenbush, for the County and for taxpayers,” commented Legislator Brian Zweig (D/EastGreenbush, North Greenbush, Poestenkill). “It provides a cost-effective solution for upgrading the Town’s facility, while also generating revenue for the County’s facility. We’ll be better positioned to grow our tax base and reduce the tax burden on property owners.”