

NEWS RELEASE

January 8, 2008

EVANS WATER PROJECT UPDATE

In 2007, the Town of Evans and the Erie County Water Authority signed a memorandum of understanding to enter into a lease management agreement. As part of the agreement, the Erie County Water Authority would assume operation and maintenance of the Town's water system, once the existing water system was brought up to Authority standards.

Several water infrastructure improvements were necessary in order to enter into the agreement. Included in these improvements were replacement of hydrants and undersized waterlines, construction of a water storage tank, reduction of duplicate water mains, improving access to water mains, and replacement of all residential and commercial water meters. The water meters will be equipped with electronic remote readers that will enable the meter to be read without entering homes or businesses.

The project is estimated to cost \$12.5 million dollars and will be paid for by a surcharge on water usage. Currently, the Erie County Water Authority's fee for water consumption is much lower than the Town of Evans charges for water usage. Once the Authority takes over the operation and maintenance of the system, the lower ECWA water rate will be applied. However the resident's of the Town will still be charged the current Town's water rate. The difference between the Erie County Water Authority water rate and the Town's water rate will pay for the improvements. In summary, the Town will see \$12.5 million in improvements with no net increase in water costs. In addition, grants and low interest loans are in the process of being secured.

Residents should be aware that all water meters will be replaced and in many cases will require workers to enter the home to exchange meters. H&K Services, the low bidder, will begin installation of meters during the week of January 14th. It will take several months to complete the installations for the entire Town.

However, it will take approximately thirty (30) minutes to have the meter changed in each residence. Homeowners will be notified in advance as to when the workers will be exchanging the meters.

Also, residents in some water districts will receive a data collection survey that will assist the Town in securing grants for the project. The surveys will be conducted by an independent firm and the name of respondents will not be required on the survey. Cooperation with the water meter replacements and surveys is much appreciated by the Town officials.

The entire water project will take several years to complete and will eventually reduce costs as well as result in water system improvements.

Residents that have questions may call the Evans Water Department at 549-1811, Supervisor Fran Pordum's office at 549-5787 or, regarding water meter replacement, H&K Services at 1-866-588-5290 or evansmeters@h-kservices.com.

Also a brief explanation of the project will be offered at the Town Board meeting on January 16, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.