

Sweden files first water expansion grant with Rural Development

On May 10, 2019 the Town of Sweden filed an application with Rural Development for the funding of public water expansion on Lake Road south from just north of Swamp Road to the Bergen town line; Redman Road between Fourth Section Road and White Road; and Countryview Terrace.

The application procedure has been a lengthy process, one that began last fall. It will be some time before the Town knows whether the application is successful. If it is, Rural Development will offer the Town a package that includes a combination of grants and loans to bring the cost of the project to the property taxpayer to within the NYS Comptroller's guidelines.

For 2019, the Comptroller's guideline for water districts is \$898 per parcel per year including the purchase of water. That means the debt service that each parcel would be expected to carry is roughly \$650 per year; the estimated usage charge is approximately \$248. The total project cost is estimated at \$4,326,506 and would provide water to 74 existing single family homes, one apartment and one commercial building.

If Rural Development offers a funding package, the next step will be for the Town to create a water district. The Town will have to collect signatures from property owners within the proposed district on an official petition and conduct at least one public hearing prior to creating the district. If not enough property owners are willing to sign the petition, the petition process will fail.

When the Town receives an application determination from Rural Development, the Town will notify the public on the Town's website, the "Town of Sweden Supervisor" Facebook page, through the *Suburban News* and a direct mailing to those property owners in the proposed district. For more information, call the Supervisor's Office at 637-7588.