

## **PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF ALL EXISTING WATER DISTRICTS OF THE TOWN OF LEWISTON**

This plan is for the dissolution of the following Water Districts of the Town of Lewiston, as well as any and all other Water Districts heretofore formed or existing within said town, outside of the Village of Lewiston and the Tuscarora Indian Reservation, which have been inadvertently omitted: Chippewa Water District, College Heights Water District, Dickersonville Water District, Escarpment Water District, Fairview Park Water District, Lewiston Heights Water District, Ridge Road Water District, Ridgeview Village Water District, River Road Water District, River Road Water District Extension No. 1 (a/k/a River Road Water District Bond), River Road Water District Extension No. 2, Sanborn Water District, Saunders Settlement Water District, Saunders Settlement Lateral Water District, Saunders Settlement Water District Extension No. 1, Tuscarora Water District.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Throughout the decades as the Town of Lewiston expanded the Town Board established numerous Water Districts for the provision of water to various areas of the Town. As a new section of the Town was developed or grew, the Town Board formed or expanded existing Water Districts to meet the growing need. The Water Districts formed by the Town Board include the Chippewa Water District, College Heights Water District, Dickersonville Water District, Escarpment Water District, Fairview Park Water District, Lewiston Heights Water District, Ridge Road Water District, Ridgeview Village Water District, River Road Water District, River Road Water District Extension No. 1 (a/k/a River Road Water District Bond), River Road Water District Extension No. 2, Sanborn Water District, Saunders Settlement Water District, Saunders Settlement Lateral Water District, Saunders Settlement Water District Extension No. 1, and the Tuscarora Water District. It also appears that the Town also established additional water districts which were later either dissolved or consolidated. The above list is believed to be a complete list of the now existing Water Districts within the Town of Lewiston, outside of the Village of Lewiston and the Tuscarora Indian Reservation. However, as some of the records date back to the 1920s, it is the intent of this dissolution plan to include any and all Water Districts within the Town, outside of the Village of Lewiston and the Tuscarora Indian Reservation, which have been inadvertently omitted.

In the 1970s and thereafter, the Town continued to expand and improve the municipal water supply system through a series of improvements made utilizing Article 12-C of the Town Law. The Water Improvement Area defined by these Article 12-C procedures consisted of the entire Town of Lewiston, outside of the Village of Lewiston and the Tuscarora Indian Reservation. Throughout its history, different areas of the Town received water from different sources, including the Niagara County Water District and the City of Niagara Falls. Today the entire Town of Lewiston, outside of the Village of Lewiston and the Tuscarora Indian Reservation, has access to the municipal water supply and water is supplied by the Niagara County Water District.

The various improvements made within the various Water Districts through the years, as well as the town-wide Water Improvement Area improvements that were made, has resulted in a town-wide water supply system that functions as a single cohesive unit and is serviced and maintained by the Town of Lewiston water department. In order to adequately reflect the current state of the Town's water supply system and to respond to current and future system maintenance and improvement needs, the purpose of this dissolution plan is to dissolve all existing Town of Lewiston Water Districts and in their place to establish a single Water District with territorial boundaries consisting of the entire Town of Lewiston outside of the Village of Lewiston and the Tuscarora Indian Reservation. The establishment of this town-wide water district will be the subject of a separate proceeding conducted pursuant to Article 12-A of the Town Law.

### **PROPOSED DISSOLUTION PLAN**

- (a) The Town of Lewiston proposes to dissolve the following Town of Lewiston Water Districts, as well as any and all other Water Districts heretofore formed or existing within said town, outside of the Village of Lewiston and the Tuscarora Indian Reservation: Chippewa Water District, College Heights Water District, Dickersonville Water District, Escarpment Water District, Fairview Park Water District, Lewiston Heights Water District, Ridge Road Water District, Ridgeview Village Water District, River Road Water District, River Road Water District Extension No. 1 (a/k/a River Road Water District Bond), River Road Water District Extension No. 2, Sanborn Water District, Saunders Settlement Water District, Saunders Settlement Lateral Water District, Saunders Settlement Water District Extension No. 1, and Tuscarora Water District (collectively "the Town Districts").
- (b) The boundaries of each of the Town Districts are depicted in Exhibit A attached hereto.
- (c) The Town Districts are each of the water districts created by the Town of Lewiston pursuant to Town Law, with the Town Board members of the Town of Lewiston acting as Commissioners of each of the Town Districts.
- (d) The costs of the dissolution include associated legal fees estimated at \$10,000, and the cost of the publication of legal notices which is estimated to be \$500. There may also be some incidental costs.
- (e) The plan does not call for the elimination or transfer of public employees. All Town of Lewiston water department employees will remain Town employees.
- (f) The Town Districts' assets are comprised primarily of the water distribution lines, appurtenances thereof, and equipment used in the maintenance and repair of the same. A schedule of assets from the Town's most recent appraisal is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

- (g) None of the Town Districts to be dissolved have any current indebtedness. Town borrowing for water improvements in recent years has been accomplished in conjunction with Water Improvement Area procedures pursuant to Article 12-C of the Town Law and the benefited area to which the debt burden is assessed is the entire Town outside of the Village of Lewiston and the Tuscarora Indian Reservation.
- (h) There are no agreements required with any other entity to carry out the dissolution of the Town Districts, as the Town of Lewiston is the only entity responsible for the creation and management of such districts.
- (i) The property owners in the Town Districts will continue to receive the same services provided to date. Upon the dissolution of the Town Districts, the Town Board will undertake proceedings to establish a town-wide water district that will take the place of the numerous smaller districts.
- (j) Upon the dissolution of the Town Districts, all water system facilities not already owned by the Town of Lewiston shall become assets of the Town of Lewiston. These assets will be conveyed to the newly formed town-wide water district as part of the procedure to establish the same pursuant to Town Law Section 208.
- (k) The Town Districts to be dissolved do not have any local laws, rules, ordinances, etc. independent of the Town.
- (l) The dissolution shall become effective May 1, 2017.
- (m) The Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on the proposed dissolution of the Town Districts on March 13, 2017 at 6:00 pm at the Lewiston Town Hall, 1375 Ridge Road, Lewiston, New York.