

On Monday, February 25th, the Town Board and Freedom Sanitary District No. 1 entered into an intergovernmental agreement to resolve key concerns that the Town Board had with Sanitary District policies and procedures associated with the construction of sanitary sewer and water utilities for new developments located in the sanitary district. The agreement will help in keeping land development costs in the town more on par with other communities, which, will generate more developer interest, spur economic growth, and ultimately provide much needed residential lots within the sanitary district. While the agreement does not address all of the Town's concerns, the Town Board feels it will provide a sufficient mechanism for the town to resolve its primary concerns without having to create a new Town Utility and dissolve the existing sanitary district.

The new agreement addresses the following concerns:

- 1) Amends Sanitary District Sewer use ordinance to allow for the construction of a proposed Private Wastewater Treatment Plant ("PWWTP") within the boundaries of the Sanitary District by any industrial user that the District is currently unable to treat.
- 2) Changes Sewer and Water Use ordinances to allow for the developer to select his own sewer/water contractor and not have to publically bid the project.
- 3) Changes the Sewer and Water Use ordinances to allow the developer's surveyor/engineer to stake all of the sewer and water main for construction.
- 4) Allow the Town Engineer to work with Sanitary District's engineer to lower costs associated with the review, construction inspection/observation, and construction management with a development.

The process began on January 15, 2019 when the Town Board of the Town of Freedom had commenced the process to create a Town Utility District in order to resolve issues related to the resistance of developers to develop residential subdivisions within the current. A subsequent State Statute required Public Hearing on the creation of the Town Utility was originally scheduled for January 30, 2019, but was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Town Board at a February 4, 2019 meeting discussed the idea of creating the Intergovernmental agreement to resolve some of the main issues in lieu of creating the Town Utility. Unfortunately, the delay in the public hearing, delayed the Town's opportunity to officially present the detailed reasons why the Town Utility was being considered, its impacts, and transition process involved.

The Town Board is hopeful that the new agreement will resolve its issues concerning land development within the sanitary district and forward better communication with the Sanitary District Commission and staff.