

RESOLUTION NO. 628 -2020, DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS TO STREAMLINE THE CONSIDERATION OF SEWER CONNECTION APPLICATIONS

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk has been a leader in establishing policies and programs to protect drinking water from pollution for decades; and

WHEREAS, ensuring properties are able to safely and appropriately connect to sewer systems protects the environment by reducing the concentration of nitrogen and other contaminants in both soil and groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the current sewer connection process in Suffolk County requires two separate application and review processes, one through the Department of Health Services and another through the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, requiring two application and review processes can cause delays for communities and homeowners that want to connect to a sewer, costing both time and money; and

WHEREAS, a more streamlined and efficient process to apply for sewer connection and a review which encompasses the needs of both departments would be more effective for both the County and the applicant; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health Services and the Department of Public Works should jointly examine their sewer connection application processes and make recommendations to the Legislature on ways to streamline the process, including the establishment of a single application and review process which meets the needs of both departments; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Suffolk County Department of Health Services and the Suffolk County Department of Public Works are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to jointly examine their sewer connection application processes and assess strategies to streamline the process, including studying the feasibility of establishing a single application and review process; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Commissioners of the Department of Health Services and the Department of Public Works shall each assign appropriate staff from their respective departments, with a minimum of 2 employees per department, to collaboratively examine all sewer system connection requirements and laws and determine options to further streamline the application and review process, as well as identify any obstacles which would need to be overcome to achieve a more streamlined application process; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, that the collaborative group shall also develop a proposed process for a single application and review procedure to obtain approval for sewer connection by both departments simultaneously; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that the collaborative group shall issue a written report containing a detailed analysis of all necessary changes to each Department's procedures and to County law in order to effectuate a more streamlined system with a single application and review process shall be delivered to the County Executive and each member of the County Legislature within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the effective date of this Resolution; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(26) and (33) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW insofar as these actions constitute routine or continuing administration and management not including new programs or major reordering of priorities that may affect the environment, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: September 9, 2020

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: September 17, 2020