PUBLIC HEARING OF THE TOWN BOARD TOWN OF DUNKIRK
202-b SHOREWOOD WATER DISTRICT
APRIL 21,2026

The Town Board of the Town of Dunkirk held a Public Hearing at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21,2026 at the Town Hall, 4737 Willow Road, Town of Dunkirk, New York with Supervisor Miller presiding.

PRESENT: Supervisor Miller
Councilmember Crane
Councilmember Leone
Councilmember Price
Councilmember Pagano

OTHERS PRESENT: Rebecca Yacklon, Town Clerk, Attorney Jeffrey Passafaro, Braden Carmen, Dunkirk Observer, Sue Hazelton, Irene Strychalski, Paul Parker, Bill Jakubowski, Priscilla Penfold, John Jay Warren, Pete Miller. Chris Penfold, David Harden, CPL, Eric Wies, CPL

The pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Miller.

PROOF OF POSTING & PUBLISHING

TOWN OF DUNKIRK
SHOREWOOD WATER DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

That the Town Board of the Town of Dunkirk, in the County of Chautauqua, State Of New York, will meet at the Town Hall, 4737 Willow Road, Dunkirk, NY at 5:15 p.m. on the 21 st day of April, 2026, for the purpose of conducting a Public Hearing in relation to the improvement of facilities in the Shorewood Water District which have heretofore been authorized at a maximum cost of $2, 295,000. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to consider authorization of an increase in estimated maximum cost from $2,295,000. To $3,794,307. Pursuant to a revised map, plan and report of CPL Engineers dated March, 2026. Said report has been accepted and filed by The Town Board.

The Improvement Project previously authorized generally consists of approximately 12,900 linear feet of water main, fire hydrants, valves, and other appurtenances, all as detailed in the Map, Plan and Report of CPL Engineers. Said Report is available for inspection in the Town Clerk's Office.

At such Public Hearing, the Town Board will hear all persons interested in the

subject matter thereof, written comments may also be submitted to the Town Clerk's office prior to said hearing date, and will be received and entered into the record of the Public Hearing.

March 24,2026

CORRESPONDENCE
None Received

BOARD MEMBERS DISCUSSION

- Councilmember Crane stated it's been a long time since we started this project back in 2021 and we need to move forward on it.
- Councilmember Leone brought up concern regarding the non-working fire hydrants, and it is part of the reason that we need to keep moving on the project.

SUMMARY:

Supervisor Miller opened the public hearing by reading the official notice, explaining that the project cost needed to increase from $2,295,000 to $3,794,307 due to COVID-related price increases and project delays. The improvement project consists of approximately 12,900 linear feet of water main, fire hydrants, valves, and other appurtenances as detailed in CPL engineers' revised map plan and report dated March 2026.

Sue Hazelton expressed frustration with the project timeline, noting they had been working on this since before their retirement and emphasized the need to move forward.

Paul Parker from 4986 Morewood Drive raised several detailed concerns about the project, including requests to see updated plans and proposals, questions about water line placement less than ten feet from sewer lines, concerns about dead-end water lines affecting pressure, road restoration requirements, anticipated start dates, and the need for qualified inspectors with NYSIT certification.

Eric Weis from CPL provided comprehensive responses to the public concerns. Regarding project timing, he explained that several factors were causing delays including permitting processes, eminent domain procedures, and the need for remaining permits before bidding could commence. They estimated the timeline could be two to four months before going to bid, with the eminent domain process being the biggest potential delay. When asked about winter construction, Weis confirmed contractors would be willing to work through winter months if necessary, citing a previous Westfield project as an example.

Addressing technical concerns, Weis explained that dead-end water lines would have minimal pressure impact since pressure is primarily dictated by the water tank elevation on Willow Road. The new 8-inch mains would decrease friction loss compared to existing smaller diameter mains, improving fire protection capacity. For water quality concerns at dead ends, Weis noted this would be the responsibility of the water operator (CBI) through regular flushing procedures, either manual or automatic.

Regarding the wrapping of pipes near sewer lines, Weis detailed that when water mains must be installed within 10 feet of sewer lines, the Department of Health requires the water main to be "bagged" with a plastic liner sleeve, and all joints in that section must be wrapped and taped. For perpendicular crossings of sewer lines, wrapping is only required if the separation is less than 18 inches.

Weis addressed road restoration concerns by explaining they would likely use a modified pavement specification rather than full DOT standards, similar to previous projects in Portland and Pomfret. The trench width would be approximately three feet, and the asphalt thickness would be appropriate for residential traffic rather than heavy commercial use.

Jay Warren inquired about the significant cost increase, and Weis explained that the original estimates were from April 2020, before COVID caused material prices to skyrocket. However, the town had secured a $1.377 million grant through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WEA) via NYS DEC, which essentially offset the cost increase for residents. The decision to authorize the higher amount before bidding was strategic to avoid project delays if bids came in over the original budget.

Discussion of fire hydrant locations revealed ongoing coordination issues. Warren mentioned previous conversations with Seth Kroll, former engineer from CPL about hydrant placement considering snow plowing operations. Weis confirmed they would review hydrant locations, acknowledging the narrow right-of-way constraints. There was also discussion about existing hydrants being "bagged" (covered in black) by the West Town Fire Department, with Supervisor Miller explaining this was due to inadequate fire protection in certain areas.

The cost structure was clarified as being added to property taxes rather than water bills, with Weis indicating it would appear on tax bills starting the following year.

The new PVC water main system would help reduce mineral content compared to the existing cast iron pipes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Included in the above summary are public comments made by Paul Parker and Jay Warren.

With no further public comments, a motion was made by Councilmember Leone and seconded by Councilmember Crane, to close the Public Hearing at 5:40 P.M. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Yacklon
Town Clerk