



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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WAINSCOTT WATER DISTRICT : WATER MAIN HOOK-UPS and FINANCING

Suffolk County Water Authority contractors began installing water mains and hooking up residences, prioritizing areas where perfluorinated chemical contamination has been found, on August 20.

What You Should Know:

The overall cost of the construction work of installing water mains throughout all of the streets of Wainscott (about half of the total estimated \$24.3 million project) will be covered in the same way that any town capital project is paid for – through the issuance of bonds by the town, which will be repaid with tax dollars raised from all the residents of the town, outside the incorporated villages.

Though the final bonds have not yet been issued, it is estimated that, for the owner of a house assessed at \$7,000, or a \$1.2 million market value, the water main extension costs will add approximately \$35 to \$38 to an annual tax bill. As your taxes are based on the assessed value of your property, that figure will vary accordingly.

INFORMATION FOR WAINSCOTT RESIDENTS PLANNING TO HAVE THEIR HOUSES HOOKED UP TO THE WATER MAINS

How Do I Start the Process?

If you have responded to the Suffolk County Water Authority, through the return postcard in their mailing, (or by calling them at 631-563-0251, or emailing fred.berg@scwa.com), that you are interested in hooking up your house to the water main, you will be asked to make an appointment at which contractors for the Water Authority will visit your house to make an assessment.

You should then receive an estimate of the cost of the private service line and hook-up needed to connect your residence or business to the main. This cost is based on a per-foot cost of the service line, which is dependent on the size of the line needed for your house, and on other individual factors.

There is no requirement that you hook up to the water main, but it is advisable, as the water provided is regularly tested by the Suffolk County Water Authority.

How Will I Pay for the Hook-up?

You are not required to pay the cost up front, though you will ultimately be responsible for it. The Town will initially be covering the costs of all private service line hook-ups. Each property owner will then repay the town for the cost of their own hook-up, through a special assessment on their property bill, to be amortized over a period of at least 20 years (exact time period to be determined). That tax assessment will run with the property, so if you sell your house, the unpaid amount will remain on the tax bill.

While, under normal circumstances, property owners who hook up to a Suffolk County Water Authority main must hire and pay a private plumber to connect their house to the main, East Hampton officials chose to finance this cost for Wainscott residents to insure that all in the area affected by chemical contamination may hook up to “public” water if they choose to do so without an initial outlay for the cost.

****WAINSCOTT RESIDENTS MAY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR HOOKING UP TO THE WATER MAIN UNTIL JULY, 2020. ****

After that date, those hooking houses up to the water main will have to follow the Suffolk County Water Authority’s normal procedure, and hire and pay a plumber for their private service line hook-up.

Can I Use My Own Plumber Now?

Yes, you may opt to deal with your private service line hook-up on your own, by hiring your own plumber. However, in that case you will not be able to repay the costs over time, through your tax bill, and will be responsible for the entire cost when the work is done. Due to the cost of public projects, you might find that a private plumber can offer you a better price.

Look in your mail and email, and at EHamptonny.gov for a fact sheet from the Water Authority to help you make that decision, and a response card so that you can indicate your preference.

What Are the Financing Details? When Will I See the Cost of my Hook-up on my tax bill?

The town has issued short-term notes to finance the water main extensions and hook-ups. You will not see the final, per-year charge for your private service line hook-up on your tax bill until after long-term bonds have been issued for the project, after the sign-up period ends in 2020.

The charge will include the cost of interest on the borrowing (to be determined at the time -- the town has a AAA credit rating, and anticipates receiving a favorable interest rate), and be broken down into annual payments over the pay-back period (also to be determined when the bond is issued, but no shorter than 20 years).

However, you will see a charge on your tax bill for 2019-2020, to be issued in December, 2019, that reflects your pro-rated share of the interest costs for the short-term notes.

Again, that figure will change after the conclusion of the hook-up program and the final cost of the borrowing is tallied.

I Will Be Hooking Up to the Water Main. How Much Will My Water Bill Be?

The Water Authority charges a base fee of \$33.03 quarterly for a standard 1" service line, plus \$1.95 per thousand gallons of water used. Though the cost to individual customers can vary, an "average" customer pays about \$400 a year.

Questions?

Additional information is provided in other areas of the Wainscott Water District section of EHamptonny.gov. Please don't hesitate to contact the office of East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc, at 631-324-4140, if you need more information or help.