## **RESOLUTION NO. 2 Of 2022**

TITLE: DE MINIMIS FINDING AND AUTHORIZATION FOR SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AND FILE NECESSARY PETITION(S), ACQUISITION MAP(S), AND NOTICE(S) OF PENDENCY AS ARE REQUIRED TO SECURE THE NECESSARY PROPERTY BY EMINENT DOMAIN.

## THE TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK

In The Matter of the Acquisition of Certain Minor Easements for Use in Public Project by the Town of Middletown, New York:

WHEREAS, as part of the Watershed Protection and Partnership Programs of the New York City Watershed Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA"), New York City provided funding for the New Sewage Treatment Infrastructure Facilities Program (NIP) and the Community Wastewater Management Program to assist in the development of new sewage collection and treatment facilities in up to twenty-two (22) selected villages and hamlets in the NYC Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Middletown, Delaware County contains one of those hamlets, the Hamlet of New Kingston, which was selected to receive funding for the construction of a new community wastewater infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, due to certain deficiencies in the existing on-site wastewater treatment and disposal facilities on both residential and commercial properties in the Town, the Town proposed the creation of a sewer district for these areas and the construction of a Town-owned and operated wastewater collection system including pump station and related infrastructure, with related work (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, subject to permissive referendum in the manner provided in Town Law Article 7, a majority of the residents within the proposed service area of the Project voted in favor of the establishment of the New Kingston Sewer District; and

WHEREAS, a certificate of the Town Clerk was filed pursuant to Town Law § 209-e(4) certifying the results of the special election held on June 30, 2019, and per Town Board Resolution No. 14 of 2019, the Town formed the New Kingston Sewer District with a service area that includes the hamlet of New Kingston; and

WHEREAS, due to failing septic systems and demonstrable water quality problems, a primary purpose of the Project is to construct and maintain an adequate system for sewage removal and treatment to ensure the health, safety and welfare of Town residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, design and construction of the proposed sewer system will be performed in conformance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Design

Standards for Wastewater Treatment Works, 2014 (2014 NYSDEC Standards), and the Rules and Regulations for the Protection from the Contamination, Degradation and Pollution of the New York City Water Supply and its Resources, 2002 (NYCWRR). Regulatory review and approval will be obtained prior to the initiation of construction; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Middletown Town Board (the "Board") has reviewed and considered the plans and schematics for the Project, as reflected in the <u>Preliminary Engineer's Report Community Wastewater Management for the Hamlet of New Kingston, Town of Middletown, Delaware County, New York, dated November 2018, prepared by Lamont Engineers, which requires the Town to acquire minor easements from various real property in the area of the proposed sewer district to accommodate the Project;</u>

WHEREAS, the sewer main locations, after an exhaustive study prepared by Lamont Engineering, is no longer subject to change;

WHEREAS, the Board and the residents of the New Kingston Sewer District have determined that the Project is in the best interest of the Town and its residents and, as a result, that the contemplated acquisitions are in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the Town and its residents, as it is in the public's best interest that the Project be properly constructed and maintained;

WHEREAS, the Board has endeavored and will continue to endeavor to acquire any necessary easements and acquisitions for the project by voluntary compliance with land owners, but the Board acknowledges that voluntary compliance may not be achieved for all the necessary acquisitions requiring the Board to exercise its powers of Eminent Domain;

WHEREAS, as reflected by the Project maps for the remaining easements needed for the Project, the Board has determined, pursuant to New York Eminent Domain Procedure Law § 206, that the remaining contemplated acquisitions are all minor in nature, affecting small portions of individual properties and constitute minor amounts of land and land interests, and therefore any of the individual acquisitions by Eminent Domain would be *de minimis* in nature so that the public interests will not be prejudiced by the acquisition of those property interests for construction of the Project;

WHEREAS, the Town had previously complied with the mandates of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (ECL Article8 and 6 NYCRR Part 617) ("SEQRA") for the Project, as reflected by the Board's Negative Declaration adopted on May 8, 2019; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of SEQRA, utilizing Eminent Domain to acquire

those lands/easements for the Project is consistent with the Board's prior SEQRA review and

Negative Declaration for the Project.

NOW WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS BY THE TOWN OF

MIDDLETOWN TOWN BOARD, DELAWARE COUNTY, NEW YORK:

THAT THE Town of Middletown Town Board hereby determines that the contemplated

remaining easements and acquisitions for the Project are de minimis in nature as provided by the

Eminent Domain Procedure Law; and

THAT THE Town authorizes its legal agents to send final offer letters to remaining

landowners with fair market value; and

THAT THE Town of Middletown Town Board hereby determines that if the final offers

are not accepted and/or voluntary compliance to acquire easements or fee acquisitions in

furtherance of the Project is not practicable or would prejudice the Project, the Town and its

legal agents are authorized to acquire the lands or interests by use of Eminent Domain; and

THAT THE Supervisor is authorized to execute and file the necessary Petitions,

Acquisition Maps and Notices of Pendency as are required to secure the necessary property by

eminent domain.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board and Attorney for Town are hereby

directed to take such actions as are necessary to implement this resolution.

WHEREUPON, the Resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:

Motion made by: Nelson Delameter

Seconded by: <u>Christopher Dabritz</u>

Resolution adopted by a vote of 5 ayes and 0 nays

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I hereby certified that the above resolution was duly adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Middletown at its regular meeting held on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Dated: January 12th, 2022

Patricia F. Kelly, Town Clerk

Town of Middletown

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STATE OF NEW YORK }
COUNTY OF DELAWARE
TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN

I have compared the preceding copy with the original Resolution on file in this office adopted by the Town Board of Middletown at a regular meeting held January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and I DO HEREBY CERTIFY the same to be a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of the original. I further certify the vote thereon was as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

MEMBERS ABSENT

VOTE

Yea/Nay/Abstain

Yea/Nay/Abstain

Yea/Nay/Abstain

Yea/Nay/Abstain

Yea/Nay/Abstain

Supervisor Davis Councilperson Sweeney Councilperson Delameter Councilperson Williams Councilperson Dabritz

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Dated: January 12th, 2022

Patricia F. Kelly, Town Cler

Town of Middletown

SEAL

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