

Moratorium Statement November 17, 2021
Brookfield Water Pollution Control Authority

As to the issue of a Brookfield Sewer moratorium, the matter stirred a constructive dialogue with key area developers. The consensus was to hold off until there is better clarity as to a potential agreement to increase allowable flows between Danbury and Brookfield. It is widely agreed that this is the first and best option. This matter is on-hold as a new Brookfield First Selectman and new Danbury Mayor are not due to be seated until early December. Neither official-elect feels it is their part to assume duties in advance.

Separately, this week the State has agreed to fund a \$1,500,000 Planning Grant at 55% to bring the Candlewood and Pocono Road projects to the point of Public Hearing and a town wide vote for Bond financing. Part of this project is to determine how the waste should be handled. That solution will add future capacity allowing the recent spike in development to continue. This could involve citing one or more package waste treatment plants in Brookfield, probably in the north end of town. However, this will require the Town sponsor the Planning Grant project at 45%. The funds will need to be borrowed then returned when the bond funding arrives. A bond would be paid for in the convectional way, that is through a Benefit Assessment on improved properties. Issues for a Brookfield waste treatment option are citing and permitting of package treatment plants. This will take time but are doable. The Brookfield WPCA is anticipating further sessions with key developers and elected officials as schedules allow.

The current regulations at Section 1.2 say, "To ensure that the Town does not exceed its available treatment capacity, no sewer connection or discharge permit shall be issued by the Authority with respect to any property ... applications for Sewer Connection and Discharge Permits shall be considered only when the Authority determines that the public sewer system and existing sewage treatment capacity is capable of conveying and adequately treating the sewage to be discharged."

Brookfield does not have the current capacity to accept any further applications unless additional capacity is secured. Consequently, it is proposed that time be given for the town leaders to meet to work out a solution. Should no solution be immediately clear the moratorium will be put in place in December.