

Catherine F. Parker
Legislator, 7th District
Chair, Committee on Appointments



Committee Assignments:
Economic Development
Veterans, Seniors & Youth

MEMORANDUM OF LEGISLATION

DATE: January 30, 2024

TITLE: A law to authorize the exchange of real property

SPONSORS: Legislator Catherine Parker

INITIAL OR GENERAL IDEA OF THE BILL: To authorize the conveyance of a 13.4-acre parcel of real property currently owned by the County (County Parcel) to Westchester Joint Water Works (WJWW), in exchange for a 13.4-acre parcel of real property currently owned by WJWW (WJWW Parcel).

INTENT: To authorize a “land swap” between the County and WJWW. This legislation and corresponding real-estate contract shall authorize the County to convey the County parcel to WJWW. In exchange, WJWW shall convey the WJWW parcel to the County.

JUSTIFICATION: WJWW is a non-profit public benefit corporation that was formed in 1927 consisting of the member municipalities of the Village of Mamaroneck, the Town of Mamaroneck, and the Town/Village of Harrison. WJWW delivers drinking water to its member municipalities and also sells water to portions of the City of Rye and the City of New Rochelle.

Pursuant to an administrative order issued by the US EPA and an order from New York Supreme Court, WJWW is required to build a filtration plant to address the levels of Haloacetic acid found in its water. In June of last year, WJWW formally requested that the County approve the request to exchange land. Shortly thereafter, the NYS Supreme Court dismissed the only lawsuit challenging the proposal to locate the filtration plant on the county owned parcel.

Even then, it was not until September of last year that the Board of Legislators (BOL) commenced its process of “reviewing” the WJWW request. The BOL has been reviewing the WJWW request for months without legislation, giving special attention to those who oppose the filtration plant being located on the parcel of land currently owned by the county. It is time for legislation authorizing the land exchange between the County and WJWW to be brought before this body.

Present Law: None

Fiscal Impact: None