

BEDC and CAC, Town of New Lebanon
Special meeting
July 7, 2025

Present: BEDC members: Rae Gilson, Chris Peterson, Eileen Rand, Josh Young
CAC members: Bob Gilson, Donald Lamonaca, Peg Munves, Bill O’Neill, Steve Powers, Bruce Shenker. Guests: Joanne Amlaw, JoAnna Phillips

Wastewater treatment: Josh began by saying that a few years ago local business owners asked the BEDC to investigate the possibility of getting wastewater treatment for the Central Commercial District. A joint committee with the CAC and BEDC was formed in order to complete all the testing, surveys, and other information needed for a feasibility study. With the support of the Town Board, an engineering firm, Lamont, was engaged to write a feasibility study. Additionally, the Town received help from RCAP Solutions to help create resident surveys and other information needed for a complete study. The results of the study should be available later this month.

When this idea was first proposed, it was to just study the feasibility of developing a wastewater system, due to grants available it was later decided to study the possibility of municipal drinking water as well.

CAC members Peg and Donald have done a lot of testing in the downtown area. They have found a lot of coliform and ecoli, but no PFAS compounds, PCBs. There is concern about landfills, particularly illegal landfills, which might leach at a later date.

The application deadline for funding is September 20. Because resident’s income in the downtown area is lower than the medium income of the Town, we may be eligible for additional funding.

If the Tilden Project is approved, and water treatment is funded, the Tilden Project would tie into the system. It would be hard for the CBD to afford water treatment without Tilden.

What would happen if we don’t do anything? The Town will not be able to accommodate some new businesses without water treatment, there would be no way to install required sprinkler systems, many businesses would not have adequate water for their customers. If water and sewer do get installed, insurance rates would drop significantly due to hydrants being installed. There will be fewer issues with contamination if water treatment is installed. The bottom line is that it is going to be up to the property owners who opt-in to bear the unfunded cost of the investment.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.