

Supervisor
Christine Stark

Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Shannon Featherly

Council

Ronald Jacobs
Mary Farrell
Daniel A. Wiley
William Gould

Superintendent of Highways
William Pond



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Assessor
Rebecca Trudell

Historian
Julie Merchant

Planning Board Chair
Noel Bonvouloir

Board of Appeals Chair

Edward Hludzenski

Zoning Enforcement Officer
Cody Higgins

Senator Mark C. Walczyk
Room 608, Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12247

16 January 2026

Senator Walczyk,

For more than a decade, the Town of Cape Vincent has been working to bring safe, reliable public water service to the Bedford Corners community. Residents first asked for this essential service in 2012, but for many years the Town was unable to move forward because no viable funding sources existed. A turning point came in 2019, when new State and Federal programs finally made it possible to restart the effort. The Town immediately began formal development of Water District No. 7 and engaged Barton & Loguidice to update engineering plans. Since then, the Town has worked diligently and consistently to advance the project.

Early efforts secured more than \$4.4 million in combined State and Federal grants.

Unfortunately, conflicting rules between the programs prevented the Town from accepting the full amount. The project was capped at \$3.7 million, insufficient to proceed, forcing the Town to return the awards and pursue a single State grant instead.

After a three year wait, the Town was awarded a \$5 million State grant in December 2023, finally allowing design work to begin. However, additional delays during permitting and legal review, combined with inflation over the extended timeline, have pushed construction costs higher than originally projected. When the construction bids came in December 2025, they were 1.7 million over the estimated projected costs.

As a result, the annual cost to residents, initially estimated at \$873, has risen to \$1,173; without additional grant support. The Town is actively pursuing every available funding avenue to

reduce this burden and bring the project back within reach for the families who have waited so long. We need your assistance as you close out the 2025 budget year and begin working on the new budget.

Cape Vincent remains fully committed to delivering this project in the most affordable way possible. But to move forward with construction, the Town must reform the district at the current cost level, something that cannot happen without community participation and, critically, without additional financial support from programs under State and local authority.

Appeal for Assistance

This project represents more than pipes and pumps. It is about public health, economic stability, and the basic dignity of providing clean, dependable water to residents who have been waiting for over a decade. The Town has exhausted every tool available at the local level. We are now at a point where Federal, State, and local partners can make a decisive difference. We respectfully ask for your assistance in identifying and securing any available funding options - grants, supplemental programs, or discretionary resources, that fall within your purview. Even modest additional support would significantly reduce the financial burden on residents and allow this long promised project to finally become a reality.

The people of Bedford Corners and Water District 7, have waited patiently. They deserve the same level of essential infrastructure that other communities already enjoy. With your help, we can deliver it.

Respectfully,

Christine Stark
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CC: Senator Darrel Aubertine



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