

Village of Athens

Wastewater Collection System Evaluation Project

The Village of Athens intends to submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for the 2020 program year. The CDBG program is administered by the New York State Office of Community Renewal (OCR), and will make available to eligible local governments approximately \$49 million for the 2020 program year for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, with the principal purpose of benefitting low/moderate income persons.

The Village will request \$50,000 for evaluation of the wastewater collection system, and drinking water distribution and stormwater systems under the Planning Program. The Village is required to match the CDBG funds at 5% of the total project cost; the match will be \$2,632.

The funds would be used to contract an engineer to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the Village sewer collection system and the related stormwater and drinking water co-located piping.

The Village of Athens, first settled in the late 1700s, was historically a Hudson River center of shipbuilding, brick making and ice harvesting. Originally there was no wastewater treatment plant; wastewater was conveyed in pipes to the river. The Village wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) was built in the 1970s, after passage of the Clean Water Act. In the last decades, the aging wastewater system has experienced overflows during rain events and was subject to a NYSDEC Order on Consent for improvements. The WWTP was upgraded in 2012. Several areas of the collection system were repaired by slip-lining in 2013 and 2014. Still, there are aging pipes in substantial areas of the collection system that may be contributing water to the collection system during rain and snow melt events, which can overload the capacity of the WWTP. Some older areas of the collection system are known to have drinking water and wastewater pipes that are lain too close to comply with current regulations.

A short- and long-term plan is needed for predicting costs and timing of repairs and replacement, to ensure the health and safety of the community and the surrounding environment, and promote local economic growth. The evaluation will result in a Preliminary Engineering Report. The report will provide a comprehensive evaluation of the sanitary sewer collection system, the stormwater system and the potable water distribution system. Using this evaluation, an overall master plan which addresses the infrastructure needs will be developed. Armed with an overall infrastructure strategy, the tasks within the master plan will then be prioritized to allow for targeted improvements to be made over time with each investment considering the future needs of the Village.