# Rensselaer County Water and Sewer Authority
# 2017 Annual Report

## January 2018

Robert Pasinella, Jr., Chairman
Kenneth M. Harting, Treasurer
John Mooney
John Fetscher, Vice Chairman

John J. Bonesteel, Chief Executive Officer
Robert Hotz, Chief Financial Officer
Jay H. Sherman, Secretary
Philip H. Dixon, Authority Counsel
Henry V. LaBarba, P.E., Authority Consulting Engineer

# Overview

On June 26, 2008, the Rensselaer County Water and Sewer Authority (RCWSA) closed on an $8,005,000 Water Service Bond Issue and a $6,555,000 Sewer Service Bond Issue to fund sewer projects in the Town of East Greenbush and water projects in the Joint Water District, consisting of East Greenbush and the City of Rensselaer. By the end of 2015, virtually all of the water project funds were disbursed and, at the end of 2017, only $147,096 remained to be spent for sewer projects. In March of 2015, the City of Rensselaer refinanced $3,495,000, the City's share of the Water Service Bond Issue, using bond proceeds from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC). The remainder of the Water Service bonds ($3,930,000) were redeemed in December of 2017 by the Town of East Greenbush using EFC proceeds with the assistance of RCWSA. The Town of East Greenbush is currently working with RCWSA and the New York State EFC to redeem the $6,555,000 in Sewer Bonds in 2018, which will bring the successful relationship between the RCWSA and the Town to an end.

In 2017, the Town finalized improvements to East Greenbush's wastewater collection and treatment system, focusing on pump station upgrades at the Hampton Manor and 3rd Avenue Stations. It is anticipated that once the Hampton Manor Pump Station Control Panels are installed the remaining Sewer Bond proceeds of about $100,000 will be used to pay down bond principal, barring any short term sewer emergency in the Town.

The Authority also owns the Pheasant Run sewer system, a fifteen unit system in the Town of Schodack. The Authority collects $850.00 per year per unit for its maintenance expenses. Due to the age of the system, there were a significant number of pump replacements and electrical system repairs performed in the last three years, as most of the pumps are over 20 years old. This work depleted the existing reserves for Pheasant Run to $16,500. The Pheasant Run account does not receive any County, Town or State direct support and is totally funded by the 15 serviced homes. The 2017 year-end balance was $23,570. The Authority will continue to pursue a more permanent operation and financing arrangement for this small system.

The Authority is also working with the Town of North Greenbush to finalize agreements for maintenance of the sewer line that the Authority owns along Valley View Road and the collection of hook-up fees for recent residential development.

## Accomplishments/Operations

The following is an account of the RCWSA's sewer project accomplishments and operations during calendar 2017.

### PUMP STATION PROJECTS

### Hampton Manor

The Hampton Manor pump station rehabilitation project is near completion. Work included new pumps, control panels and miscellaneous equipment.
The pumps and motors have been installed and the control panels are being installed.

## 3rd Avenue Pump Station

The 3 rd Avenue pump station rehabilitation project, which included new pumps, valves and control panels, was completed in the late fall of 2017. The rehabilitation was needed in part to accommodate development in the area, including the Regeneron Warehouse Project.

## Rensselaer County Water and Sewer Authority
## Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Rensselaer County Water and Sewer Authority to foster public health and well-being and to promote economic development through the financing, management and operation of public water and sewer utilities for Rensselaer County and its local governments. In doing so, the Authority shall strive to provide such services in a cost-efficient manner.

## Authority Measurement Report in Accordance with Section 2824 – a of the PAL

With the completion of the water system improvement projects listed in the Official Statement and expenditure of the Water Bond proceeds, the focus of the Authority turned to improvements to the waste water collection and treatment system in the Town of East Greenbush. The Authority assisted the Town of East Greenbush in refinancing their existing Water Bond debt with the Authority, which will save the Town's taxpayers in both the short and long term and will continue to assist in the refinancing of the Town's outstanding Sewer Bond debt.

## Management Report on Internal Controls

During 2017 Management's review of banking needs found that the Authorities current bank, Key Bank, began charging approximately $300 per month in service fees for maintenance of its four accounts and for electronic banking services. Efforts to reduce or eliminate the fees were unsuccessful. Management investigated charges by other banking institutions for similar services and found that TD Bank N.A, could provide similar services for approximately $10 per month and transferred its accounts commencing in 2018.

## Board Members

**Robert Pasinella, Jr., Chairman** - Mr. Pasinella is the Director of the Rensselaer County Office of Economic Development and Planning, as well as the Executive Director of the Rensselaer County Industrial Development Agency.

**Kenneth M. Harting, Treasurer** – Mr. Harting is the former supervisor of the Town of East Greenbush's water system for the Department of Public Works and is the operator of a number of small private water systems in Rensselaer County.

**John Mooney** – Mr. Mooney is a licensed real estate broker with Realty USA and the President of the Rensselaer City School District Board of Education.

**John Fetscher** – Mr. Fetscher is the former Secretary of the Water and Sewer Authority and a retired staff member of the Rensselaer County Office of Economic Development and Planning.