

**The Town Smithville Public Hearing  
July 14, 2025**

**Town Board Members:** John Cammarata, Fred Heisler, Shane Butler, Russell Wark, Dakota Warren and Chantal Rogers (acting as the interim Clerk for the Hearing)

**Members Absent:** none

**Public Hearing for Town of Smithville:**

**Water Development Project and Community Development Block Grant:**

Town Supervisor John Cammarata opened the Special Town Board Meeting at 6:30 pm  
Flag Salute

Motion made by Board Member Shane Butler to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Dakota Warren. Ayes from all. Motion carried.

Supervisor John Cammarata read the Public Hearing Notice.

Brendon Becker, Engineer for LaMont Engineering Co, addressed those in attendance about the Project. He gave the community members the project details including the budget for the project and what grants the Town is pursuing to pay for the project.

**Question and Answer Portion of the Meeting:**

(Please note: The substitute clerk did her best to match names and addresses with questions.)

1. Kenny Gardiner 572 Round Pond Road  
“What area of the town is defined as ‘the Hamlet?’” Answer from Brendon: The homes in the highlighted area of the map, not the whole Town.
2. Kim 186 McBerney Road  
“How did you come up with the Hamlet Map?”
3. Kirk Mohr Loomis Lane  
Comment about if there were 100 homes on the Hamlet?
4. Deb Mills  
“How many people need to be on the water system?”  
“Did the community ask for this?” - Supervisor John Cammarata answered this question
5. Holly Mohr 137 Loomis Lane

“What were the results of the survey sent to the public?” (Survey in question was sent from the Town of Smithville Planning Board pertaining to their Comprehensive Plan) John will request the result of the survey to be sent to the Board by the Planning Board Chairperson Marie Kehl.

6. There was a comment made by a community member about the survey and what defines a low income community.
7. Richard Verana 5253 Highway 41  
“Can you keep your well?” Brandon answered “Yes”  
“How much will it be to hook up to the water system?”
8. Kirk Mohr Loomis Lane  
Asked about fees for someone who doesn’t use the water line.
9. Deb Mills  
Asked about where the salaries for those working the water lines would come from.

At this point in the meeting, the Town Board announced that they had no intention of building the Water System at this time. The project is still in the discussion phase.

10. Ken (not Gardner)  
“Where will the money come from to fix a water main break or other maintenance?”  
Brendon answered that there is money in the project budget set aside in a reserve fund for this purpose.
11. Kenny Gardner  
“How many households and/or dwellings are in Hamlet and how many property owners?” Brendon answered that there were 154 parcels and 158 EDUs
12. Deb Mills  
“How much will taxes increase?” Brendon and the Board answered that they shouldn’t  
“Why are we still pushing this project?”
13. Bruce Kinny addressed the meeting
14. Richard Verana  
“Who gets to decide if the project goes through?”  
Board and Brendon answered that they will take all the comments from this meeting into consideration and discuss them. The Board will still apply for the extra grant money. The

Board needs to let Brendon know of their decision by September for the () grant.  
However, the Town needs to get the extra grant first before anything else can happen.

Comment on how having a public water system in the Town can lead to more growth- gas station, senior center etc.

15. Kenny Gardner

“ How many people are in the Town of Smithville?”  
“Why isn’t that number reflected on the Water District map?”  
“Why not spread the money over the whole township?”  
“How much is an individual house's water system?”

16. Dave Curtis

Made a comment about how shallow wells can create problems for property owners

17. Holly Mohr

Asked about the money for the project and what grants the town can apply for  
“How many wells were tested out of the 158 properties?”

18. Richard Verana

“Is there a well site picked out for the water system?”

19. Ken

Is it feasible to add fees to low income or moderate income housing? Will it affect the income of the housing?

An informal vote was taken by the Town Board to determine those for or against the Project

Those for the project: 7 (2 in same household)

Those against: 20

This public hearing will be discussed at the Town Board meeting next Monday July 21,2025. All comments and votes will be taken into consideration.

20. Kenny Gardner

“If I were to sell my property, which borders the water district, would I have to hook up?”  
Brendon and Board answered “No”

At this point, Supervisor John Cammarata reminded the community of the Town Planning Board meetings scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month, and encouraged community members to attend.

21. Richard Verana

“How scalable is the design for community growth?”

Brandon answered that the project design has planned for up to 50% growth

22. Holly Mohr

“Is there 50% land available in the town for growth?”

23. Bryan County Road

Can you use town water to feed livestock?

Who decided where the town well will be dug? - project map specifies a potential spot for well on property currently owned by DeJegers Farm.

24. Deb Mills

“What is it going to cost the town to buy the land from the owner?” The project budget has funds set aside to buy land at an appraised value

25. Barb Tallet State Highway 31

“At what point are we responsible for the pipes from the water system on our property?”

26. Holly Mohr

Commented to thank the board members

Raised awareness regarding better community outreach for meetings

27. Charlotte Round Pond Road

Commented that Town Clerk Alison Owens does an amazing job writing the meeting minutes for board meetings and making them readily available for the community.

She encouraged the citizens present to read the minutes when they are available

Supervisor John Cammarata announced that the Town clerk position will be vacant and two Town Board member positions are up for election.

28. Deb and Bob

Commented that this project should have been on a ballot for the community to vote on

29. Dave Curtis addressed the meeting and asked questions pertaining to digging a new well and if he could get a variance. The Board addressed his questions.

30. Richard Verana

“Can we get a list of the pros and cons of this project?”

31. A community member asked how long would the project take after receiving all the grant money?

Board and Brandon laid out project schedule, projecting that the project would be completed in about three years

32. Deb Mills

“Would what the townspeople have to pay per year for the water system increase [in the three years]?”

33. Kenny Gardner

“How many members of the Board live in the proposed Water District?”

Board answered that one member lived in proposed district

Brandon explained to the community that the pipes used for the project could be laid underneath roadways.

34. A citizen asked “Why does [the project] cost so much if the pipes are easy to install?”

35. Kirk Mohr (Owner of Loomis Lane):

Commented that on the plan there was a water main drawn down Loomis Lane, which is a private roadway.

Brendon answered that the water main can be moved to a different spot.

36. Alisha Dunlap Loomis Lane

Commented that in her deed she has the right of way to Loomis Lane because Kirk Mohr is the owner.

**Adjournment:** Board Member Dakota Warren made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Shane Butler. Ayes from all. Motion carried.

Supervisor John Cammarata closed the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chantal Rogers, Town of Greene Planning Board Clerk  
Standing in for Town of Smithville Clerk Alison Owens