

VIA EMAIL AND HAND DELIVERY

July 7, 2026

Supervisor Kevin Hansan
Town of Pound Ridge
179 Westchester Avenue
Pound Ridge, NY 10576

All Members of the Pound Ridge Town Board
Town of Pound Ridge
179 Westchester Avenue
Pound Ridge, NY 10576

Re: Comptroller's Order Approving Scotts Corners Water District

Dear Supervisor Hansan and Members of the Town Board:

We, the undersigned residents of Pound Ridge, including property owners within the proposed Scotts Corners Water District, write concerning the Order of the Office of New York State Comptroller ("OSC") ("Order") approving the Town's application to form the Scotts Corners Water District and in connection with the Town Board's hearing to consider whether to accept the OSC Order on July 7, 2026.

The agenda indicates that the Town Board plans to accept the OSC's Order despite the 11 specific concerns raised in the June 15 letter co-signed by 18 Pound Ridge property owners including 9 in the proposed district. Even after it plans to accept the OSC's Order, there are reasonable questions that the town should answer in the interest of disclosure to both residents and proposed district members. No further funds should be expended until answers to these questions have been provided to all parties.

These questions include the following:

1. What happens if the project fails to proceed for any number of reasons (e.g., Aquarion does not supply the intended water, the EFC grant is revoked by the pending lawsuit or the town engineer determines the project cannot be completed within the proposed cost estimate or that bids come in significantly above that estimate)? Who is responsible for the costs incurred, including the initial engineering and legal costs, if the project does not go forward?

2. What is the authority of the Town's Scotts Corners Water District Task Force? How were members of this task force selected? Have the members of the task force disclosed any potential or actual conflicts of interest, including any business relationship with businesses in the district or any direct or indirect financial benefit that may be received by approval of the district and/or development in Scotts Corners? The Task Force's recent mailing was one-sided and did not mention any opposition to the project or formation of the district, including the concerns in residents' June 15 letter.

3. How will the water district be governed? Will the members of the board of the district (and/or commissioners) be elected by owners within the district? When will that election be held? Will there be an interim board before such election? How will such interim board be selected?

4. Why did the property owners in the district not get proper notice of the hearing? The Town never sent individual notices and instead relied just on its website. In addition, the Town did not make available the Vimeo live streaming that is usually available for the June 16 meeting and implemented a restrictive policy of limiting Zoom access for the June 16 meeting by requiring pre-registration without providing adequate notice of the pre-registration requirement.

5. Why is it that the Town failed to determine the impact on the wetlands from installing municipal water without any plan for wastewater? Since well water will no longer be drawn out to reduce the water table, the introduction of piped in drinking water could overwhelm the local septic systems and the water table. Can the Town say with 100% certainty that the net introduction of water will not lead to a potential catastrophic failure?

6. How do you respond to the factual observation that residents outside of the district will be paying 2.42% of the total cost by virtue of the pass through of the Fire District share and that this violates repeated pledges that residents outside the district will not pay anything? Does this fact give formal standing to every Pound Ridge taxpayer related to this project? Who is paying for the Town's lobbyist to lobby Albany in favor of the project? The Town (and its residents) or the proposed district?

7. With the purchase of Aquarion by a Connecticut public benefit entity closing days ago on June 30, is there now a greater risk that Aquarion will not provide water to the district, especially since there is a water shortage in Connecticut evidenced by Aquarion issuing a drought alert warning for the New Canaan/Stamford area on July 1?

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these questions. We look forward to the Town Board's response to these seven questions at the July 7 hearing or as soon thereafter as possible. This letter is co-signed below by 46 residents in the town, including 12 within the proposed Water District noted with an asterisk by their name.

Sincerely,

Niels Wittus*
40 Westchester Avenue

Alyce Wittus*
40 Westchester Avenue

Scott E. Fernqvist*
39 Westchester Avenue

Anne Fernqvist*
39 Westchester Avenue

Pamela C. Paterson*
30 Westchester Avenue

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23 Westchester Avenue

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25 Miller Road

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144 Upper Shad Road

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125 Brook Farm Road

Charlene Sirowitz
17 Threshing Rock Road

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88 Eastwoods Road

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25 Ebenezer Lane

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11 Apple Tree Lane

Susan Lee
11 Apple Tree Lane

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124 Upper Shad Road

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124 Upper Shad Road

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Sheila Schlesinger
14 West Lane

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12 Lower Shad Road

Jack McCown
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