



TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON

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August 3, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from the office of East Hampton Town Supervisor Peter Van Scoyoc

There are numerous factual inaccuracies contained in the advertisement recently placed in the newspaper titled “Seeking accountability from the Town of East Hampton,” by Si Kinsella, and his report at the Wainscott.Life website.

The attached document is an accurate timeline of all events. The Town Board acted promptly and reasonably. In fact, after the Town Board commenced installation of the water main and provided bottled water to impacted residents, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“NYSDEC”) determined the Town’s actions to be necessary and appropriate.

The allegation that the Town withheld information from NYSDEC is incorrect. The Town promptly provided all information it had in its possession. That search resulted in the Town’s conclusion that it did not use, store or purchase aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) at the Airport.

Instead, the East Hampton Fire Department, which is owned and operated by the Incorporated Village of East Hampton (a distinct municipality from the Town), caused the contamination by storing and using the foam. Every single use of AFFF identified in the Kinsella report and NYSDEC’s site characterization was used by the East Hampton Fire Department. As the Town does not control this fire department, the Town does not have records or knowledge of uses and storage of AFFF except from what is identified in NYSDEC’s Site Characterization Report. The Town has made multiple requests for the Village to disclose where the fire department used foam. The Village, however, through its outside counsel, rejected the Town’s requests. As a result, the Town was forced to sue the Village to obtain, among other things, the production of this information and for the Village’s insurer

to provide financial assistance to the Town in connection with the clean-up. Mr. Kinsella should be aware of this as his report references the complaint filed by the Town against the Village; all of these facts are in that complaint.

Further, the Town has complied with every demand, request and order made by NYSDEC and the Suffolk County Department of Health regarding the investigation and cleanup. Throughout the period of October 2017 through 2018, the Town had regular calls with the Suffolk County Department of Health and NYSDEC to address the issue. Within two days of the Suffolk County Department of Health issuing a water quality advisory, the Town commenced its free bottled water deliveries to Wainscott residents. The Town quickly determined, after consultation with government agencies and the Suffolk County Water Authority, that an extension of the public drinking water supply line is the best course of action to ensure clean drinking water for Wainscott residents. The project was unprecedented as it called for the extension of approximately 9 miles of drinking water mains at a cost in excess of \$12 million. The water main installation was completed in 2018.

Further, the Town has recently entered into an Administrative Order on Consent with NYSDEC such that the Town will investigate and remediate on-site and off-site contamination as NYSDEC directs. The Town has hired environmental experts in the field to immediately address any and all issues.

In order to recover the costs associated with the foregoing, the Town commenced legal action. That legal action was not only commenced against the Village and its Village's insurer, but also against eighteen (18) other defendants in federal court. The defendants include chemical manufacturers, fire-fighting foam manufacturers, and certain property owners.

Mr. Kinsella's position with respect to the Deepwater Wind project exacerbating PFAS contamination is not based on science and is grossly inaccurate.