

May 1, 2021

RE: SPECIAL ASSESSMENT FOR DREDGING

Dear Property Owner,

As you may or may not know, the Borough of Tuckerton has been asked to adjust the figures for the dredging to include basically just the mouths of the lagoons located on the East Side of South Green Street. For many years now we have been trying to complete the dredging project without having to do a special assessment. Unfortunately however, in order to get the project done in a timely manner, the assessment would be necessary. So by way of this letter, we are looking for your vote on the special assessment. The Borough has attached a fact sheet regarding the special assessment, a map of the new area that will be dredged and the previous map of where was to be dredged.

The Council understands it was determined that the first vote was a No to the assessment, but there has been some interest in reducing the amount/cost of the project causing less of an assessment and that the first vote may have had some flaws with regards to the voting process, this is why we are trying it again. If the zone has a favorable "yay" vote then the town will begin the assessment process which will involve more notifications and further information to the residents. If your zone has a favorable "nay" vote, it does not mean that the project is dead, it just means the project may take longer to complete because we will need to look for another way to fund the project that does not burden the tax payer. However, at the end of the day the trend for getting dredging projects done is through special assessments.

The voting will be counted on what gets **RETURNED only**, it will not be like last time that an unreturned vote is counted as a yes vote, what physically comes back to the town is what will be counted.

Below is the cost to dredge your zone. This figure represents the highest amount you would have to pay; there is a chance it will cost less but we want to give you the maximum amount.

\$2,051,420.00 - total cost of project from Engineers estimate attached
Divided by 412 – the amount of homes affect in your zone
Subtotal from above – \$4,979.18
Divided by 10 years the length to which we have to pay off the loan
Total \$497.91 – amount of how much you would pay annually
Price per month - \$41.50

On the next page you will find a place to cast your vote on the special assessment in your zone. Please return it via mail/email (jgleghorn@tuckertonborough.com) or drop it off at the Clerk's Office located at *420 East Main Street, Tuckerton, NJ 08087* by **June 1, 2021**. If you have any questions, please feel free to call my office.

Sincerely,

Jenny Gleghorn, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk

**DREDGING PROJECT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT
VOTE FOR ONE OPTION:**

TUCKERTON BOROUGH ADDRESS _____

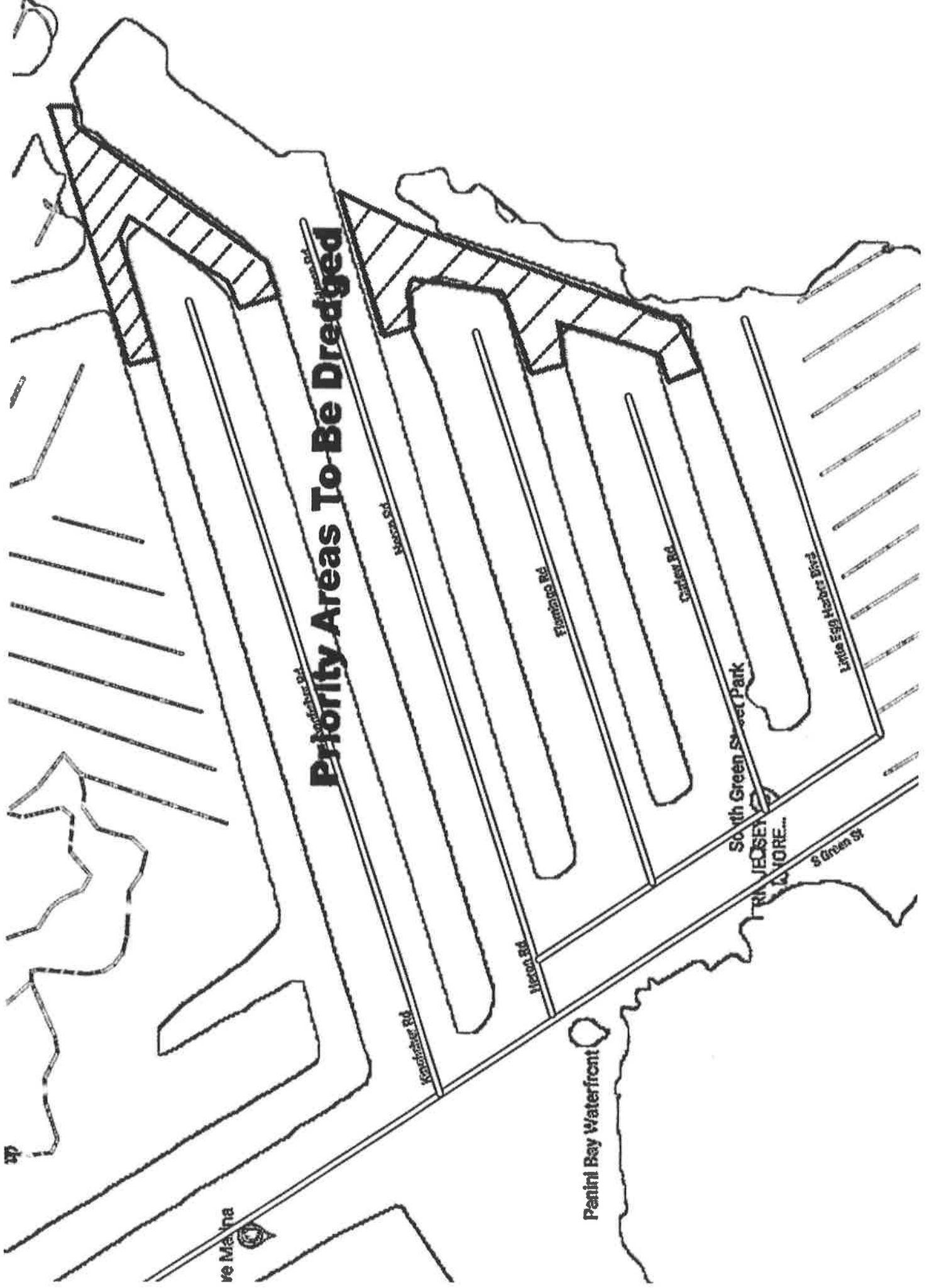
_____ **YES I WANT THE ASSESSMENT**

_____ **NO I DO NOT WANT THE ASSESSMENT**

COMMENTS:

SIGNATURE OF PROPERTY OWNER

Priority Areas To Be Dredged



Q&A about Dredging

Q: Is it possible for the whole Borough to pay for the Dredging and all Sections can be completed?

It really is not unless we received that NJIB loan because one there has to be down payment in the budget which represents 5% of the project which at this point technically represents a 15 cent tax increase. Also the budget can only be raised by 2% of the previous year budget and this project would not allow for that to be met so I am pretty sure the State of New Jersey would not approve out budget. Even if the project itself as a whole was cut in half the Borough residents would not be happy with a 7.5 cent increase to their taxes just for dredging... and that will not include any other increases that need to happen. Which one important issue the trash collection system needs to be updated the trucks are reaching their life span. So I truly think that at this point in time the town as a whole cannot afford the cost of the dredging.

Q: Are there any Governmental Agencies that are offering money for Dredging?

Correct there is nothing for dredging, there could be a possibility that dredging would be incorporated into Shore Protection Projects, but there is no guarantee on that as well. The Borough tried whatever it could to get a loan through USDA for dredging however in November of 2019 the Borough was denied and had to start a new plan for funding. And then COVID happened

Q: Why did the Borough go with the premise that if the Lot Owner did not send in their Vote it would be counted as a Yes response?

We didn't want people to ignore the poll, we wanted a true accounting of what people wanted and the best way to do that was to make sure you got your vote in IF you didn't want the assessment. This was not a binding vote it was a mere query as to what the common feel was on the assessment.

Q: How much money has already been invested in the Dredging Project?

Initially both Tuckerton and Little Egg were given \$2,000,000 of grant money to see what effect the Superstorm Sandy event caused the waterfront Community. Tuckerton spent approximately \$1,000,000 dollars for Engineering reports for all the Lagoons. This money will go to waste if Dredging is not done. Also the Borough has spent \$60,000 on obtaining the Dredging Permit which has an expiration date. The \$60,000 is about .02 cents on the tax rate.

Q: Are the homes that are on the Bay part of the Assessment?

I would have to look up Block and Lots but typically the ones that WOULD NOT benefit from the dredging would not be assessed and a lot of the those properties are on the bay

Q: Is the Assessment just for the Lots situated on Lagoons only?

yes lagoon only

Q: Can we use Lanyard Lagoon Material which we do have a Grant in Place materials for the Current Spit of Land?

The Lanyard Lagoon project is separate from the Spit of Land project located on Little Egg Harbor Blvd. We have/had a grant for both the Spit of Land is complete and funds are spent, we tried to see if behind the rocks we could place dredge material there instead of trucking it out but the area is too small and is not permitted to do that which would add more costs. As for the Lanyard Lagoon Project, the property is owned by the US Fish and Wildlife so anything that we do must be run through them... and they will not permit dredge material to be placed in the abandoned lagoon. That project will remove the bulkhead there and create a shore restoration project to stabilize that marsh area. So those 2 grants/projects cannot have any dredge material involved.

Q: When will the Borough be eligible for another Grant?

The grant we received for the Lanyard Lagoon is called 319 h grant from the State and the grant is available every 2 years but you will not be considered if you just have received one, so at this point in time the Borough will not be really looked at until 2023 and that is not a guarantee that we will get a grant; however the Borough is looking to still do a grant for the continuation of the Stone Revetment Project on Little Egg Harbor Blvd. And hopefully a portion of that grant we can use dredge material as back fill.... but again this is not a guarantee.

Q: At Minimum it will be another year past 2023 if we get a grant

Easily if not 2

Q: When does the Dredging Permit Expire?

19-Sep-24

Q: If Lot Owner wants to have in front of Lot done it is Lot owners Expense?

yes it is, the property owner will have to obtain a permit from the NJDEP as well which costs around \$1000. But if your lot was within the original area that the Borough was going to Dredge you can use the Borough's Permit and not have to come out of pocket for the cost of a Permit.

Q: If Lot Owner does dredge the area behind their home what will need to be done?

First they will need to determine if they were in the original Dredge Permit Area If not they would need to obtain a Permit from the DEP which will cost \$1,000.00. Then they will also have to talk to the Bid Winner for the Dredging and set up a Separate Contract with them. More information will be provided once the Bid Winner is determined in what steps need to be taken to have this work done.

Q: Large property tax increase last year, why doesn't Borough put this through Capital Improvement because it will increase property value which will bring in revenue for town

As stated in numerous meetings the Cost of this project would cause the property taxes to increase an exorbitant amount. The Assessments if you look at them are pretty much on point and the Borough only does assessments every 10 to 15 years. So next assessment will be in 2030 or beyond

Q: Will state pay for the dredging?

This has been attempted many times and the State will not pay for the dredging.

Q: Will dredging out the Lagoons stop the flooding?

No, Water will find its level. Goal will be to look for solutions on streets that will be done in Near Future. Check Valves are being tested and have had issues; Crown of Road will be raised but they need to be careful as not to raise it too high which could cause flooding in Homeowners yards.

Q: If Boat is in Mud at Low tide will Dredging solve this issue?

No it will not solve the issue. If we do receive a Yes Vote and Council proceeds the Homeowner can contract with the Contractor to remove material by their Dock. This is a separate Contract between Homeowner and Contractor with Borough's approval to monitor Material removed from area.