

## Here's Why - Continued:

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According to reports, Niagara would purchase one million gallons of our water per day (GPD) with 50 trucks moving out of the facility 24/7. At full capacity, their requirement would be 1.75 million GPD of our water, requiring an additional pipeline that **they** would install with up to 260 trucks in and out of the facility 24/7.

Based on their proposal, some if not all of the proposed 342,500 gallons of good drinking water per day would be used to cool new plastic bottles during production. They call this "non-biologic waste" that they 'envision' being disposed of in the Esopus Creek.

The City of Kingston's Water Board is independent. The current members include Joseph DeCicco (President), Al Radel, Robert Niedzielski, Raymond McSpirit, Dennis Crosswell and the City of Kingston's Mayor Shayne Gallo.

The City of Kingston's Water Department Superintendent Judy Hansen has issued a "Will share" agreement without the approval of the Common Council. Ward 2 Alderman Brian Seche is council liaison to the Water Department. It isn't known at this time if he was aware of the proposal, had attended any of the meetings or has ever provided the Common Council with a monthly or quarterly report.

"Will share" means that the board (where the Mayor of Kingston is also a member) is confident that Kingston can provide the requested amount of water to Niagara to bottle and to sell and still service the needs of the community. They have not yet negotiated the water rate.

The project appears to have been on the table for some time, and according to this week's Kingston Times, in order to not "kill" the project they kept it quiet until their presentation on Tuesday, September 16th in front of the Town of Ulster's Planning Board. The presentation was not on the Planning Board's agenda. The announcement of the Town of Ulster's leading role was released two days later in the media.

### **Here are some items to consider.**

According to Kingston's Charter it states that:

<http://ecode360.com/13230853>

1. Section C11-5 speaks of Kingston being able to supply water to 'other inhabitants of the City of Kingston and outside the corporate limits, etc'. This indicates residents. Not private companies.

2. The common council must "assent in the way of constructing and maintaining waterworks for supplying said city and its inhabitants with pure and wholesome water; exercise such powers as are necessary and proper to accomplish such purpose and shall proceed in the manner hereinafter prescribed." What does that mean here? That any transaction must move through council, as selling our water – particularly in the midst of climate change and drought – has got to be weighed cautiously.

We are not certain if Water Department Superintendent Judith Hansen has the authority to issue a 'Will Serve' agreement as she has done. The Common Council is the last word in gauging what may or may not jeopardize Kingston citizens in receiving water in the future in any way.

For more information, visit [www.kingstoncitizens.org](http://www.kingstoncitizens.org)