

THE TOWN OF MILTON

PRESS RELEASE

December 21, 2021

For immediate release

On December 16, 2021 the Town of Milton brought an action in the Delaware Superior Court challenging the Delaware Public Service Commission's decision to approve Artesian Wastewater Management, Inc.'s ("Artesian") acquisition of Tidewater Environmental Services, Inc. ("TESI"). TESI is the Town's provider of wastewater services. Milton opposed the Application on the grounds that the sale of TESI to Artesian would not be in the public interest because it is unclear if certain contractual obligations of TESI will be honored under Artesian's ownership, including an obligation to build a new wastewater treatment plant and water service line in the Town, and it is equally unclear how changes in rates and billing techniques will affect the residents of Milton. The Delaware Public Service Commission approved the acquisition notwithstanding reservations to do so expressed by its own staff and the Delaware Division of the Public Advocate, whose statutory role is to appear before the Delaware Public Service Commission on behalf of the interest of consumers. The Delaware Public Service Commission approved the major corporate acquisition with only three of its five members voting, and one abstaining from voting after hearing the Town's concerns, its own staff's concerns, and concerns expressed by the Delaware Division of the Public Advocate. Milton Mayor Theodore "Ted" Kanakos explained "a decision of this magnitude is too important to be rubberstamped by the Public Service Commission without any regard for the sage advice of its own staff and the Public Advocate. The Town Council and I, along with our very capable Town Manager, are committed to safeguarding the interests of the residents of Milton and expect our voices to be heard on this matter of great importance."