



Council Committee Notes - Water/Sewer

Date: October 7, 2009 **Time:** 8:30 AM **Location:** Town Hall **Chair:** Councilmember John Smith
Attendees: Councilmember Rebecca Nunn, Town Manager Tom Saunders, Chief WWTP Operator Pat Chenoweth, Field Superintendent James Seagle

Visitors: None

Notes on Discussions:

1. James Seagle reported that work to replace the Harvey Lane lift station generator is nearly completed and the start-up/on line procedures should be performed soon. Mr. Seagle also reported that a pump at that lift station, originally put in service in 1997, has failed and a replacement pump has been purchased and will be installed no later than October 14.
2. TM Saunders reported the following:
 - a. Work on the Well #3 completion project is under way and the new pump is scheduled to be installed this week. The project probably won't be finished by the end of the month but soon thereafter.
 - b. Easements for the Entertainment Center are nearly completed and the cost sharing arrangements have been finalized. Mr. Donahue has been given authorization to proceed with the work. Town Centre Drive will be closed the day the line is laid across the road.
 - c. There has been an inquiry from a homeowner on Clifton Avenue as to the availability of sewer service to that property. Staff will investigate soon and report back to the committee and the homeowner.
 - d. The WWTP and lift stations were recently visited by a DEQ inspector for a two day surprise facilities inspection. Two minor technical issues in the lab and the adjustment of a high water alarm at the Wiggins Avenue lift station were the only deficiencies noted and were corrected immediately. The Town has since received a letter acknowledging the corrections and declaring DEQ satisfaction with the current operation of the plant. The Committee commended Pat Chenoweth and James Seagle for their good work to achieve such a clean inspection.
3. The Committee discussed the pending Kilmarnock Glen re-zoning application in the context of impacts on the Town's water and sewer system. The Committee expressed the opinion that the cost of any upgrades or rehabs of the Town's system made necessary by new connections should be borne by the developer or purchasers and not existing customers or taxpayers.

4. The committee discussed the current Town policy concerning the review and approval of utility plans and agreed with TM Saunders that the developers of commercial or multi-lot projects should pay the cost of having water and sewer plans reviewed by independent engineers to verify compliance with all applicable regulations before site plans are approved. Current policy puts too much responsibility on staff and exposes Town to potential liabilities and costs if mistakes are made.

Recommendations to Council:

Action item: “Water and sewer construction drawings and plans, when submitted to the Town as part of a zoning permit application for any commercial or multi-lot residential development, will be reviewed for completeness and compliance with all applicable regulations by a professional engineering firm licensed to work in the State of Virginia, hired by the Town; the cost of this professional review will be the responsibility of the applicant.”

Recommended for further study:

- a. Work on a study of possible tiered water rates, using existing use information gathered from Town’s accounting system report.