



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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February 9, 2018

Residents of Hickory Haven and Samary Forest

Re: Potential Sewer Line Installation

Dear Resident,

A community meeting was held on January 31, 2018 with residents in the Hickory Haven and Samary Forest neighborhoods to discuss the feasibility of installing sewer infrastructure in both neighborhoods. The meeting was well attended, and we hope that the residents who participated feel that the conversation was both helpful and informative. To follow up on the meeting, attached is a list of questions that were asked as well as our responses. Also attached is a brief survey to let us know if you have interest in this project. Please fill in the survey and send it back to us by March 15, 2018. The survey is non-binding, it is merely to gauge interest.

As always, we value dialogue with our residents and it is our desire to continue to discuss the impacts of this project, clarify any facts regarding sewer service, and answer any questions you may have.

In the meantime, feel free to send any questions or comments you have to [tkilduff@goochlandva.us](mailto:tkilduff@goochlandva.us) or call me at 804-556-5869. Thank you for your time.

Very respectfully,

Todd Kilduff, P.E., Assistant County Administrator  
[tkilduff@goochlandva.us](mailto:tkilduff@goochlandva.us)

Cc: Goochland County Board of Supervisors  
Mr. John Budesky, County Administrator

Attachment: Questions/Answers from Community Meeting  
Interest Survey  
Powerpoint slide show from the Community Meeting



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### **Hickory Haven / Samary Forest – Public Sewer Project Questions and Notes from Community Meeting January 31, 2018**

#### **Questions**

1. Was the 25-year Capital Improvement Plan on the December BOS agenda item advertised?  
Response: Yes. The 25 year CIP encompasses the entire County and includes all projects for every department (i.e Transportation, Schools, Fire/Rescue, Public Utilities, etc.) and therefore was advertised on the County's website and the Goochland Gazette.
  
2. Will Hockett Road be paved before the sewer pipes go in?  
Response: As mentioned in the meeting, the sewer infrastructure is independent of Hockett Road.
  
3. Is the Connection Fee required regardless of whether or not a property is in the Tuckahoe Creek Service District (TCSD)?  
Response: Yes. All new connections pay a connection fee as stated in the County Code. The cost today for a sewer connection is \$6,000 whether you are in the TCSD or not.
  
4. Does courthouse area pay TCSD tax?  
Response: No.
  
5. What was the connection fee previously, before it went to \$6,000? When was this changed?  
Response: The connection fee from 2002-2007 was \$3,500; the fee from 2007-2009 was \$4,000; and the fee from 2010-today is \$6,000. We are not proposing an increase for the next fiscal year which begins July 1, 2018.
  
6. What is the VDH required timeline for abandoning existing septic systems after the new sewer is installed?  
Response: When we had a similar project in another neighborhood, we were under the impression from VDH that septic tanks were required to be abandoned. After speaking again with VDH, they explained that septic tanks are not required to be abandoned, however, they strongly encourage you to do so to avoid any future issues. We apologize for this misunderstanding. The attached slide show from the meeting has been updated appropriately.
  
7. Can we keep our working septic tank/drain field and not connect to new sewer?  
Response: As mentioned at the meeting, we are just trying to gauge interest at this point, but we are not requiring anyone to connect. However, if interest is low then the project may not move forward.
  
8. Is there an offset in connection fee for people who have paid the TCSD tax?  
Response: No.



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9. Does the County Utility Bill say “water and sewer service” or just “water service” for residents of Hickory Haven/Samary Forest?

Response: We backchecked everyone’s bills and did not see ‘sewer’ listed anywhere. If you are being charged sewer or see sewer listed on your bill, please contact our office at 804-556-5835 immediately so that we can address this issue.

10. Are we required to connect? – Not a mandatory program?

Response: At this point in time we are not saying it is mandatory or not mandatory, we are just trying to gauge interest in the project. However, the higher the interest is, the more likely it would move forward.

11. Can we pay \$6,000 up front or over 3 years? Is there an option?

Response: Anyone is welcome to pay the \$6,000 up front. At the meeting we discussed a 3 year payback but are willing to extend it to 5 years. Each payment would be added to each bimonthly bill. Regardless of the how many years we choose, it is important to know that this would be offered at 0% interest.

12. What is the sewer rate for usage over the base 4,000 gallons? How much for each additional 1,000 gallons?

Response: Currently, the sewer rate is \$6.48 per 1,000 gallons with a 4,000-gallon minimum. Please let us know if you have any further questions on how this charge is applied.

13. Could the sewer from Whippoorwill connect to Holly Lane through an easement to avoid Readers Branch? Did you consider using easements that exist in Hickory Haven/Samary Forest?

Response: These are items that the County would investigate further if this project was to move forward. What was presented at the Community Meeting was a very high level look at where the sewer could be installed.

14. Where do people fall between the \$8,000 vs \$16,000 in additional cost beyond the connection fee? Could the County help determine how much each resident would pay?

Response: First, please see page 4 of the attached slide show because we have updated the costs after speaking with our local VDH representative. In direct response to the question, determining each individual cost would be difficult at this stage of the project, however, we do believe there would be cost savings to each resident if group pricing was obtained.

15. How do we say we want the project or not?

Response: Attached to this letter is a survey sheet that we ask you to return to us in the prepaid envelope.

16. Will the County send out a follow-up letter?

Response: Once the surveys are received, and if the interest is high enough, we plan on hosting another community meeting to discuss the project further. However, if there is little interest, we would have to discuss with the Board of Supervisors how they would like us to proceed.



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17. Will there be a deadline to say yes or no?

Response: The survey has a deadline on it to reply, but please know that the survey is just to gauge interest and is not a binding document.

18. Is the connect fee set in stone or can it be negotiated?

Response: The connection fee is set in the County Code.

19. Will we get this sewer service before Oilville?

Response: Although we discuss Oilville and its potential every year, currently, the County does not have plans for that area.

