



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

February 27, 2020

Project: Hickory Haven/Samary Forest Public Sewer Installation
RE: Project Update

Dear Property Owners and Residents,

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, County Administration, and the Department of Public Utilities, we would like to thank you for your involvement in this important Capital Improvement Project in your neighborhood. We value the feedback you have provided during the planning process; it has helped us plan a better project. The Board and Administration are committed to this \$2.4M project and believe it will be as successful as the county's \$360K waterline project several years ago by which public water infrastructure was upgraded in your neighborhood.

After conversations with many neighborhood residents and property owners, feedback from several community meetings, and additional discussions with the Board, we will be moving forward with the design plans for Alignment Option 2 (with adjustments supported by the feedback we received). Based on this alignment, no neighborhood resident will bear the initial cost of having to supply a pump station. The general alignment of this sewer design is attached to this letter.

At the last community meeting on October 28th, several residents requested that the connection fees be waived because of the Tuckahoe Creek Service District tax payments that have been made by each landowner since 2002. Pursuant to the covenants in the bond documents, all TCSD tax payments can only be applied to repayment of the approximately \$90 million debt the county incurred to build the initial main/trunk lines for the public water and sewer systems; accordingly, the tax payments cannot be applied toward connection fees.

Your neighborhood's situation – of having paid the TCSD tax, but not yet having access to both public water and public sewer – is not unique. There are still a number of properties which have been paying the TCSD tax but don't yet have access to public water or sewer and the Board of Supervisors is not willing to establish a precedent of waiving connection fees in those situations, especially since the TCSD tax is legally bound to pay the bond debt service and cannot be used to offset the cost of capital improvements.

Utility connection fees are established by county ordinance and collected for every structure connected to the public water or sewer system; they are used to fund capital



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improvements to the utility systems. Connection fees from other residents are funding this \$2.4M sewer system extension to serve your neighborhood. A chart which clarifies the use of the funds collected for utilities is enclosed for your review.

The Board is not waiving the connection fees for homes in your neighborhood, however, it is offering those residents who wish to connect, but who find the connection fee payment difficult to manage, a special opportunity to pay the connection fee on an extended 10-year, interest-free payment plan. This means that a resident could choose to pay the connection fee through an additional \$100 payment in each bimonthly bill. The \$6,000 connection cost and the payment plan option is available for any resident who submits a request to connect within three months of the County's notice that the system is available for connection.

Of course, no one is required to connect to the new sewer line. We understand that some residents believe their septic system is in great condition and they do not want to connect at this time. However, should anything occur to their septic system in the future, the county sewer line will be in place for them to connect then.

Over the next few months, a representative of the Utilities Department will be contacting all property owners where easements will be required for the new sewer line. Some easements will be permanent while others will be temporary, needed only during construction of the new sewer line. If we need an easement from you, please know that we will be monitoring the land disturbance throughout the process and we will restore any land that is disturbed. Also, please note that there will be no cost to any landowner for easements, as the county is fully covering the cost for that process.

Thank you for your involvement and input on this project. If you have any further questions, please let us know by contacting the Department of Public Utilities at (804) 556-5835.

Very respectfully,

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Cc: Members of the Goochland County Board of Supervisors
John Budesky, County Administrator
Todd Kilduff, PE, Deputy County Administrator