



**Stormwater Committee Meeting
August 26, 2019
Human Resources Training Room**

1. Call to Order: *The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM*

2. Roll Call: *Roll was called by Barbara Brumbaugh*

Committee Members in Attendance:

*Richard Bunton (Committee Vice Chair)
Bruce Weckworth
Roger Baxter (Committee Chair)
Carol Warren
Traycie West-Pinkoski
Markiella Moore
Eric Martin (PW Director)
Thomas James (City Attorney's Office)
Barbara Brumbaugh (PW Staff)
Holly Adams (PW Staff)
I.B. Paudel (PW Staff)*

Absent Committee Members

*Alden Cleanthes
Todd Riegler (excused)
Virginia Cook
Laura Mae (excused)
Watson Lawrence (Ag Dept Director - excused)
Matthew Fulford (Alternate)
Kelly Lackey (Asst City Attorney – excused)*

Citizens in Attendance:

*Pamela Thornton – Cobblewood Arch
Veda Walker – Pine View Lane
David Wetherford – John Etheridge Rd
Steve Thompson – John Etheridge Rd
Vic Nichols – Millet Qtr*

3. Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the July 22, 2019 meeting were approved.

4. Citizen Concerns

- Pamela Thornton expressed concerns about development around Great Bridge Blvd and Cobblewood Arch. She stated that builders want to build, but the area is in a flood zone and water is rising. She is concerned about the inlets into the pond which backs up to Dominion Blvd. She believes that the pipes need to be cleared and ditches in the area need to be cleaned, they are overgrown and haven't been maintained. She states that the only way out of the neighborhood is Fernwood Farms Rd, so if the area floods it will be a problem. She is worried about the proposed apartment building in the area causing flooding issues.
- Eric noted that the culvert under Dominion Blvd was replaced during the Dominion project. He gave a brief overview of development standards for stormwater. He also noted that there is an alluvial fan (of sediment) in the lake near the culvert at Dominion
- Veda Walker also echoed these concerns and requested that the City clear the pipes at the road crossings.
- Steve Thompson lives on John Etheridge Rd, off Indian Creek Rd. He stated that there is only one ingress/egress on this road and that Indian Creek Rd has serious flooding. He noted that for the past 4 years the road has flooded frequently. Mr. Thompson says the pipes are full. He is opposed to new development being approved on John Etheridge Rd. He stated that John Etheridge Rd needs to be raised at the creek crossing as this area floods.
- David Wetherford presented a letter he received from the City (Development & Permits "D&P"). D&P staff agreed to monitor the area around Indian Creek Rd and John Etheridge Rd. He stated that the flooding is severe in this area, and that 6 inches of water ran over the road during the past weekend. He noted that development is occurring where the road crosses the bypass (168). He is very concerned that additional homes will flood John Etheridge Rd. He noted that there was a request from a neighbor to build a 10,000 square foot shed, and that he had to submit a site plan. There is a low area on Indian Creek Rd with serious flooding.
- Eric committed to the City evaluating the creek crossing (pipes) under John Etheridge Rd. Upsizing the pipes could involve raising the road in this area. Eric also mentioned maintaining an adequate channel, and the City needs to check on whether this is part of the Norfolk Co. drainage system.
- Mr. Wetherford wants to know how he can find out what type of development was approved. Eric advised that he start with the Planning Dept. Mr. Wetherford is concerned about runoff from the new lots on John Etheridge Rd and the creek crossing. He noted that the pipe crossing floods 6 inches over the road on a regular basis.

- Roger told the citizens that they came to the right place, and that their complaints will be taken seriously.
- Eric mentioned that there are 22 locations that need snag & drag work. Each project costs around \$150,000 – \$200,000, and only 2 are funded at this time. There is also a backlog of storm drain work.
- Mr. Wetherford has reported the issue to DEQ.
- Customer Services requests will be created by PW staff for each of the reported situations.
- Vic Nichols has concerns about the recent Council Retreat. She wants the City to take on debt to get things done. She believes there are too many projects to only use cash.
- Eric notes that a lot of work needs to get done in stormwater. Revenue is flat, and there has been no fee increase since 2008, but expenditures are increasing. The Capital Fund is decreasing, and the fund balance has all been spent. He explained why the City does not debt fund stormwater projects. Maintenance must begin as soon as project is completed. There will always be a need for ongoing operations and maintenance.

5. Director's Items, Eric Martin

- Eric discussed that the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget has been submitted. At current funding level, the City is planning to increase the Operations budget by \$200,000, which now has to come from the capital side. Equipment is not being replaced, so about \$1 million/year is needed, but the request is for \$800,000/year. He discussed bringing down the backlog. There are not enough Sheriff's Dept crews, and the City cannot fill positions. 12 workers are Maintenance Equipment Operators in training so that the City can grow the work force from within. Labor could be contracted, but the rates are increasing and there are not enough people to fill positions or do the work. The Capital Budget is decreasing, and is proposed at \$4 million for FY21, \$3.8 million for FY22, and \$3.6 million for FY23. There is a commitment to large neighborhood projects in the 5 year Capital Improvement Budget (CIB). There are also snag & drag and cave-in projects, and 3 years to get rid of the backlog. Next year snag & drag is funded at \$400,000, then \$200,000 after that. There is some money slated for outfall regarding and system rehabilitation.
- The CIB submission was distributed to the Committee. Eric wants the Committee to see how much work is in process. For FY 21-22 there is 3 years of work programmed with the current funding. Eric reviewed with the Council that the City is not on a good trajectory. The City may need to consider a rate increase.
- Ms. Nichols asked if there was a moratorium on building, would that make a difference? Eric explained that development standards have changed, and that most drainage concerns are seen in pre-1970s development. He also noted that less small neighborhood projects will get done going forward. Eric noted that revenue needs to be addressed, but that the stormwater utility fee should be phased up. The City has done a

comparison of other City's fees and Chesapeake's is the lowest among the other Hampton Roads Phase I localities.

- Eric noted that next week the Budget Office meets with staff to discuss next year's operational budget. In October it will be reviewed. The Budget Committee looks at all budget requests.
- Over \$1.5 million will move from capital to operating. Eric will recommend a revenue source to start to cover the costs. Around that time frame, Eric will make a recommendation about the utility fee. In the December/January time frame the Committee will need to weigh in.
- Roger asked about the Council reaction. Eric noted that they now have a better understanding of the challenges. Citizens expect things to be done quickly. Council wants to get the backlog down (cave-ins, snag & drag). Cleaning and clearing ditches is very challenging. The City needs \$1.4 million/year to clear vegetation and around \$2.5 million/year for regular maintenance. Citizens don't always see everything that is happening.
- Markiella asked about the funded and unfunded projects. Eric offered to provide the list.

6. Operations Update, Indra Paudel

- IB reviewed the Operations report.
- There is a backlog of 92 contractual drainage and cave-in projects.
- 5 cycles of street sweeping have been completed and the 6th cycle has begun.
- There are 146 open work orders.

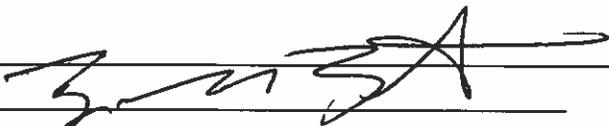
4. Engineering Update, Holly Adams

- Engineering is receiving about 30 service requests/month, and doing 20 project reviews.
- There are 5 active master drainage projects, and 2 more to kick off.
- There are currently 50 active stormwater projects.

6. Old and New Business

- There was an explanation of Call Center activities.
- Carol asked about an "Adopt a Drain" Program. Eric noted that the Public Information Officer is looking at the Virginia Beach program. Carol noted that there will be a discussion at the upcoming Elizabeth River Project Eastern Branch Implementation Team meeting.
- Roger asked if there is a way we can reach impacted neighborhoods with trash technologies.
- Barbara noted that Norfolk is trying to set up a contractor to purchase and operate an Omnicat litter skimming boat.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Minutes approved by the Committee	
Date	10/28/19