

Minutes of York County Homeowner Associations Meeting
October 30, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
Senior Center of York

In Attendance:

HOAs –

Banbury Cross, Breezy Point, Chischiak Watch, Creekside Landing, Herons Walk, Kings Villa, Magruder Woods, McDonald Bluffs, Rainbrook Villas, Robanna Terrace/Thomas Road Pier, Woodlake Crossing, York Point

York County Officials and Staff –

Board of Supervisors - Sheila Noll and Tom Shepperd; County Administrator - Neil Morgan; Deputy County Administrators - Vivian McGettigan and Mark Bellamy; Fire Chief – Steve Kopczyński; Directors – Kevin Smith, Library Services and Brian Woodward, Public Works; Public Affairs - Paula Hersh and Kelly Thomas

Opening Remarks & County Update –

York County Administrator Neil Morgan welcomed those in attendance and provided updates on the following topics:

- Recycling – York County partners with Williamsburg, James City County and Poquoson for recycling services through a regional arrangement with the Virginia Peninsula Public Service Authority (VPPSA). The contract with the current service provider expires at the end of June 2019 and VPPSA is considering two bids from qualified contractors to take over. Due to a substantial decrease in the recycling resale market, the price for this service will increase under the new contract and the County will need to adjust its fee structure for solid waste and recycling collections in order to continue this vital service. Details will be shared as this process moves forward.
 - Audience member asked if the County should stop picking up recycling and what that might mean for solid waste increases and costs.
 - Mr. Morgan answered that if too many people unsubscribe from the program, that could be a consideration or we may just need to do recycling differently. Some items currently being recycled may not be in the future. It's a rapidly changing situation.
- Storm Prep & Recovery – The recent tropical systems Florence and Michael proved to be quite disruptive for County residents. Local and state government anticipated the arrival of Florence and, based on tide predictions, a lot of preparations were made that ended up being unnecessary. With Michael, there was less anticipation but the actual results were much more impactful to the area.
 - Discussion ensued about surge tide rise and sea level rise, effects of Nor-Easters, wind and heavy rain.

➤ Regional Update –

- Roads - Mr. Morgan talked about the regional impact of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel widening project, which will be under construction this time next year, and I-64 widening segments completed with significant improvements.
- Tourism – A lot of effort is being put into revamping our tourism marketing and promotion. Many of our citizens live south of Yorktown and might not realize that 8 of our 13 largest real estate taxpayers are tourism related. If Greater Williamsburg tourism increases, York County revenue goes up.
- Airport - York County, James City County and Williamsburg were invited to take seats on the Peninsula Airport Commission. Jeff Wassmer was appointed from York County, but Newport News has yet to vote on accepting the new members.

Yorktown Library Expansion Update – Kevin Smith, Director of Library Services

- Stats from the last fiscal year: 500,000 items circulated; 473,000 visits; 50,000 registered borrowers; 573 children’s programs (19,000 attending); 112 adult programs (2,000 participating); 3,000 meeting room reservations
- We are, essentially, building a new library in Yorktown. The current facility was built in 1954 and we are adding on an additional 10,000 square feet. The artist’s rendering and proposed floor plan can be viewed [here](#).
 - Audience member asked about allowing outside groups to use space and sell tickets (concerts, speakers, etc.). Mr. Shepperd clarified that businesses are not allowed to charge attendees but non-profits can.
 - Mr. Smith said that policies are always looked at and updated as needed.
 - Audience member remarked that there used to be a section in the library dedicated to genealogy asked about adding a genealogy room.
 - Mr. Smith answered that all the research materials are still in the library but have been temporarily relocated as part of the process to shut down the library for renovations.
 - Mr. Morgan reiterated the decision to close the Yorktown Library during renovation because of time and money implications. The library renovation will coincide with the move into the new Fire Station #1, which will allow the use of the old fire station for some storage. The plan is to rent a space as close as possible to the library’s current location and continue operating with limited services as the renovation is in progress.

Fire Station #1 Update – Steve Kopczynski, Fire Chief

- The current Fire Station #1 was built in the 1960’s. It was identified as needing to be replaced in 1980’s and a decision was made to remodel it for another 15 years of service. Now, 30 years later, it is being replaced with a modern facility in a better location.
- Construction of the new Fire Station #1 started in the summer of 2018. A slide show of the progress can be viewed [here](#).

- Audience member asked about equipment for the new station.
 - Mr. Morgan remarked that York County has a pretty good replacement schedule for equipment. A new replacement truck was ordered last year and is being readied for delivery. Since then, we have ordered three replacement Medic units.
 - Chief Kopczynski reiterated these are replacement vehicles –reliability is the first priority.
- Mrs. Noll asked what happens to the old vehicles.
 - Chief Kopczynski answered that they are traded-in, used for training, or kept for reserve/back-up use.
 - Mr. Morgan shared the “science” of Fleet Maintenance Division’s work that manages the lifecycles and use of each vehicle.
 - Chief Kopczynski talked about the mileage and other wear and tear on the vehicles. A vehicle recently taken out of service had 473,000 miles on the odometer.
- Audience member stood up and thanked the Chief for the good job done by Fire & Life Safety and the medics that saved his life.
 - Chief Kopczynski talked about teamwork and training and noted the success rate for survival is one of the highest in Virginia thanks to citizens, 911, FLS and YPSO all working together.

Reminders from DPW – Brian Woodward, Director of Public Works

- Debris Amnesty – Free yard debris pick-up after TS Michael has started and continues 6 days a week. The process will take another 6 – 7 weeks to complete (over 1,100 requests received), so please have patience. Crews will pick up debris as they see it, even if not called in.
- Leaf Collection – Leaf collection will start after Thanksgiving.
- Mosquito Control – Ground spraying has stopped for this year. Staff has moved to public education with an interactive program presented to YCSD 3rd grade classrooms.
 - Audience member stated the Mosquito Control staff visited their home for an inspection and he was very impressed with the information and service they provided.
- Landscaping – Grass cutting on Rt. 17 and Rt. 199 is coming to an end. Crews will be replacing mulch beds and working on athletic fields.
- Sanitary Sewer Projects – The Old Port Cove project is going out to bid with construction starting in the spring. A project adjacent to Queens Lake is under design with construction scheduled to start in the summer. Work has wrapped up on Phase 1 of the Hollywood project.

- Stormwater – Wrapping up Phase 2 of the Falcon Road area off Cook Road. Crews are currently in Meadowlake for another 3 – 4 weeks and will then move to Marlbank Cove to work on a ravine project. If you have drainage issues in your neighborhood, DPW will go out to make a determination if there is something they can do to improve it.
 - Audience member shared concerns about York Point flooding during heavy rains due to inadequate piping.
 - Mr. Woodward said they did a drainage project in that area 10 -15 years ago and that he would come out to assess the situation.
 - Follow up question about Seaford Road being torn up repeatedly for new construction and natural gas line extension, leaving potholes all along the road. Complaints to VDOT have not been addressed. Also pointed out that Virginia Natural Gas has not extended the gas line far enough for existing homes to connect.
 - Mr. Woodward will follow up after meeting.
 - Audience question about stormwater runoff and the effect on Chesapeake Bay.
 - Mr. Woodward answered that the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program has thresholds that the County is required to meet and our current stormwater projects are designed for that purpose. Previously, stormwater projects were focused on alleviating flooding but have shifted in recent years to address environmental pollutants. He talked about two culverts being placed under Route 17 in the next 2 years and adding additional BMPs. The County is in good shape for the next TMDL assessment in 2023.
 - Mr. Morgan mentioned the HRSD SWIFT (Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow) program to inject treated waste water back into the water supply.
 - Mrs. Noll commented that the goal of the SWIFT program is to raise the aquifer levels which, in time, could help with land subsidence.
 - Mr. Shepperd remarked that water level depletion causes land subsidence and pumping it back in is a good investment. He also shared some background on TMDL credits.
 - Mr. Woodward noted that our sanitary sewer projects are replacing septic systems which adversely affect bacteria levels and the quality of our drinking water.

Question and Answer Session

Mr. Morgan mentioned that a few questions were sent in advance and had already been answered electronically (view them [here](#)). He then opened up the meeting for general questions.

- Audience question about the best way to facilitate awareness of Historic Yorktown Design Committee stipulations for new homeowners in the Village.

- Mr. Morgan suggested that the most efficient way might be to send new residents a letter advising them where to find the information on the County's website.
- Audience member thanked Mr. Morgan for hosting the meeting and said the information provided was helpful and he was appreciative of the effort.
- Mr. Morgan reminded audience to [sign up](#) for email notifications, newsletters, and other ways to follow what's happening in in York County.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:08 p.m.