



Office of the Town Manager
Frank Cassidy

STAFF REPORT

Warrenton Town Council

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Eric Gagnon, Ward 5
Paul Mooney, At Large
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Council Meeting Date:	October 8, 2024
Agenda Title:	Shirley Rd. Sewage Issues
Requested Action:	Information/Discussion
Department / Agency Lead:	Town Manager
Staff Lead:	Frank Cassidy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The property at 54 Shirley Rd. has experienced at least two episodes of sewage backing into their house since January 2024. Staff receive reports of the situation and responds. Upon arrival, staff find flooding in the areas of the four homes in this area. Staff check our systems and find a heavier flow but no blockage.

Sewer lines and mains have been repaired and replaced since the 1980's. the most recent work identifies=d was documented after an issue discovered in June 2020. At this time staff found documentation and provided information to the property owner as follows:

Flushed line between manholes #217 to #217A on E. Shirley Ave. Manhole #217A surcharged about one foot above flow channel after heavy rain event last night. Sewer backed up into shower, ran into kitchen and partly into living room. Backwater valve was installed on 3-21-2013 by Ricky Wines at the direction of Utilities Director Bo Tucker, even though device was installed on private property. A year later on 3-29-2014 the home backed up again during a heavy rain event. Tucker sent Wines back out to remove backwater valve. Today's event has been documented and sent to the Asst. Director of Utilities Paul Bernard and Director Frank Cassidy to work with property owner Malcom Alls to advise Alls to install his own backwater valve WITH AN ALARM so that tenant will know to stop using water when alarm sounds during heavy rain events, indicating backwater valve has closed. - Public Utilities Superintendent Larry K. Oliver 6-11-2020.

No issues recurred until January of 2024. Since January 2024, staff verified there is a backflow "flapper" valve that was installed at this property. Town staff did not install this flapper nor did any current staff have knowledge of installing it. No issues were reported until September 2024, after another significant rainfall event. At each of the backup events, there was a substantial rain event. Crews checked the system again and found no blockage or other changes since their last checks earlier in the year. We continue to look at and discuss trying to solve this issue. This is a private property issue and a Town issue. I have been speaking with the owner on options and possible solutions.

BACKGROUND

This is an existing gravity sewer line serving this property and many others. It is not affected by any forced mains or the Taylor Pump Station at these properties. The main issues seem to arise from an excessive

rainfall event; coupled with the elevation of the properties with the existing sewer lines; and improperly functioning backflow preventor.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Continue to assess and work with the property owner(s) on finding solutions.

Service Level/Collaborative Impact

Continuing trouble shooting and assessment of existing sewer lines and systems.

Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040

CF- 4: Ensure healthy, safe, adequate water and wastewater services

Fiscal Impact

Depends on level of exploration and discussion of remedies. At this point costs are being absorbed into daily functions. If the situation cannot be remedied by internal staff, we will require an engineering assessment and redesign, plus any construction and reconfiguring of the system. As this is not in our current budget or our CIP, we would have to add this as an additional project.

Legal Impact

Claims have been forwarded to VRSA. First claim found no responsibility on the Town; we anticipate the same result from the most recent claim.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Emails regarding the issues
2. Utilities Work Diary for this location
- 3.