



July 16th Flash Flood Recovery Infrastructure Assessment & The Path to Fiscal Restoration

Town Council Regular Meeting

November 12, 2025

The Event: A "200-Year" Phenomenon

- The Storm: 4.7 inches of rain in 3 hours; 2.5 inches in a 30-minute burst.
- The Impact: Overwhelmed drainage, citizen rescues, and Reservoir Flood Stage 2.
- The Response: EOC activation and a Local State of Emergency (July 16–21).
- The Reality: Infrastructure designed for standard storms cannot mitigate "once-in-a-lifetime" events that are now occurring with increased frequency.

Recovery Progress & Cost Mitigation

We have moved from emergency response to fiscal recovery.

- Initial Damage Estimate: \$109,250.
- Internal Savings: Public Works and Utilities staff performed immediate "Force Account" labor (debris clearing, minor stabilization), significantly reducing the initial projected costs.
- Ongoing Discovery: Record research has confirmed Town responsibility for specific underground stormwater systems. We are currently soliciting technical quotes for these repairs.

The Role of our New Independent Emergency Management Agency

The transition to an Independent Emergency Management Agency is the key reason we can pursue high-level state and federal reimbursement today.

- Direct Liaison with VDEM: We no longer rely on a third party to "voice" our needs. Our EMA works directly with VDEM Region 2.
- Specialized Cost Tracking: Reimbursement requires meticulous documentation of "Force Account" labor and equipment—data our independent agency is now structured to capture in real-time with VDEM Crisis Track Programs.

Path to Reimbursement: The "Waterfall" Strategy

We are following a fiscal sequence to protect the General Fund:

1. Damage Finalization: Collect all quotes for subsurface and surface repairs.
2. Insurance First: Submit claims for all eligible Town-owned property.
3. VDEM Public Assistance (PA): Any "residual" costs not covered by insurance are claimed through the VDEM PA program.
 - Note: This program typically covers 60%-75% of eligible costs.

Impact Analysis

Legal Impact

- **Local Declaration:** Retroactive declaration (under Code of Virginia § 44-146.21) was the legal trigger required to qualify for VDEM assistance.
- **Maintenance Liability:** Legally clarifying our ownership of assets prevents future liability and ensures we only spend funds on Town-mandated infrastructure.

Collaborative & Service Impact

- **Regional Success:** The Joint Town/County EOC proved our ability to scale operations.
- **Service Levels:** We are reassessing stormwater service levels to bridge the gap between "standard" maintenance and "extreme event" resilience.

Closing & Recommendation

The July 16th flood was a wake-up call for our infrastructure, but our response proved the value of our new administrative structures.

Staff Recommendation:

- Authorize Acting Town Manager and Emergency Management Coordinator to proceed with the VDEM Public Assistance “Notice of Intent to Proceed” filing once the insurance review is complete.



Questions?