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St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

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Minutes

January 6, 2010, 7:00 pm

St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

Public Hearing -- Meadow Lake Lane Water Line Replacement (8092WR)

Attendees

MetCom Staff: Chet Frederick, Chief Engineer; Steve Engleson, Project Manager; Cristin Edwards, IT Technician; Trish Gonzales, Engineering Administrative Assistant

Welcome and Overview

Mr. Frederick introduced the MetCom staff in attendance.

Reading of the Notice of Public Hearing by Chet Frederick

Mr. Engleson introduced himself and gave an introduction to the proposed water line replacement project on Meadow Lake Lane. Mr. Engleson noted the bid opening will be held on February 17, 2010; the bid will be awarded at the following MetCom Commission Meeting.

There were several questions during the hearing regarding the project:

Proper Identification: There were identification concerns because of the children in the area and the bus stop near by. Mr. Engleson stated the identification issue will be addressed at the Pre-Construction meeting.

Storage of Construction Equipment: Residents had concerns of construction equipment being left out along the narrow street at night and children being able to access the construction equipment. Mr. Engleson noted the contractor is required to have a storage facility for their equipment.

Parking and Road Access: It was asked whether there will be parking restrictions as the street is narrow. Mr. Engleson stated residents will be notified of what will be occurring and when and will be advised if their vehicles will need to be moved. Mr. Engleson added there will be an electronic sign at the entrance to the subdivision advising residents of work.

Mr. Frederick also noted that a 72-hour notice will be sent to residents advising of any service disruptions they may experience. The shut down should not happen until the end when the construction of the new line is complete and services are being switched over. We will coordinate as best we can with the area residents to minimize the disruption of service.

It was asked whether there would be problem with leaks after the new line is installed. Mr. Engleson stated the installation of the new line should eliminate leaks in that area. Mr. Frederick added that because of the new fire hydrants that are being installed, area residents may be eligible for a discount on their homeowners insurance; residents are encouraged to call their insurance agents to enquire.

Mr. Frederick also explained that the water line is going from a 2" to an 8" water main, which will increase the water pressure in that area. Mr. Frederick cautioned, however, that the increase in pressure could become a potential problem on a service line, specifically if the service line is steel or galvanized pipe and there is a pre-existing leak. A small leak could become a bigger problem when the increased pressure hits it. The residents were advised that their responsibility lies between the water meter and their home. Unfortunately, MetCom is unable to determine the type of service installed in those homes at that time. The plans may or may not be accurate and the contractor installing the new water main will not be able to make a determination of the type of service installed.

Mr. Frederick also noted that the small patches in the road from all of the leaks that occurred over the years will be repaired.

A complete audio and video version of this Public Hearing is on file at the main offices of the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission.