



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – March 15, 2017 Agenda Item 3

Work Session

Discussion of Stormwater Program and Request to Consider Increase in Stormwater Utility Fee Rate for FY18

Recommended Council Action

Receive presentation.

Context with Key Issues

The City has had responsibility for the stormwater system since 1990. The City instituted a Stormwater Utility Fee (SWUF) to fund the program beginning in 1996. The original fee for a single family property was \$24.00. In 1999, the fee increased to 28.68. The rate was increased to \$48 in FY 2007 and \$55 in FY 2013. The Public Works Department manages the program and is requesting an increase in the base fee for FY18 to \$92.

The SWUF base rate represents an equivalent residential units (ERU) of 1,228 sq. ft. Single family homes are billed the base rate. Commercial and institution properties are billed based on the amount of impervious area on their lot at the base rate multiplied by the number of ERUs per lot. The purpose of the Stormwater Utility Fee is to provide a dedicated source of funding separate from the General Tax Revenue and which is paid by all property owners, regardless of tax exempt status.

The City's stormwater program provides management services, including construction, maintenance and repair of the system. A major component of the program is to ensure the City is in compliance with State and Federal laws. The City has a general discharge permit, provided by the State through the requirements of the Clean Water Act, known as the National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES). Additionally, the City is required to comply with the Chesapeake Bay Clean Up program through the Watershed Implementation Plan overseen by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

In addition to general maintenance and system enhancement, the City's compliance program is built around a goal of providing stormwater treatment for run-off from 20% of the existing impervious area not currently provided treatment.

The Public Works Director will present information detailing the history of the City's program, our progress towards achieving regulatory compliance, past funding levels, notable accomplishments as well as the need for increased funding levels to meet programmatic needs.

Council Priority

Fiscally Sustainable Government, Environmentally Sustainable Community

Environmental Impact of Action

Maintaining and enhancing the City's stormwater system reduces pollution from run-off, reduces likelihood of flooding and ensures compliance with State and federal laws.

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Fiscal Impact of Action

The FY17 budget was \$680,500. The proposed FY18 budget is \$809,750.

Attachments and Links

Presentation of Takoma Park's Stormwater Management Program and Funding