

12. DISCUSSION OF SEWER CONNECTION AND FACILITY FEES AS THEY RELATE TO RESIDENTS OF CAMP PARKWAY WITH A WORKING SEPTIC SYSTEM

Section 16-2 of the Southampton County Code obligates property owners to connect to public sewerage facilities within 90 days of official notice, provided that service is available at the property line and the structure is located within 300'. Those persons owning property served by an existing septic system are not required to discontinue the use of their septic systems, but may apply for what's referred to as a "non-user classification." All persons granted a non-user exemption are still subject to a monthly service charge equivalent to the prevailing minimum monthly charge for other sewer customers and will be subject to the prevailing sewer connection and facility fees at such time as they choose to physically connect.

With the extension of the gravity sewer line to Riverdale Elementary, there are seven or eight property owners along the way that will be subject to the mandatory connection requirements.

There is a past precedent established by the Board, waiving the connection and facility fees for residences served by existing septic systems, provided they physically connect within 90 days of official notice that service is available. None of the residents of Newsoms or Branchville were subject to the connection charges in 1996, when public sewer service was first made available there, if they connected within the 90-day period.

Given the small number of affected households, and as an incentive for them to proceed with connection, I'm recommending that the Board consider waiving the facility and connection charges for any of the residents of Camp Parkway that connect within the 90-day period. Those that choose not to physically connect would be subject to the prevailing fees at the time that they choose to connect. Currently, a connection fee for a single family dwelling is \$1,800 and the facility fee is \$2,000.

Service is expected to be available by late 2009.

MOTION REQUIRED: If the Board is so inclined, a motion is required to waive the facility and connection charges for any of the residents of Camp Parkway that connect within 90 days of official notice that service is available.