

# Results of a Board of Supervisors Finance/Government Operations and Economic Development Committee Meeting February 14, 2023

## [Video of BOS Finance Meeting 2/14/2022](#)

(move cursor to 1:55:00 mark, the discussion lasts about 20 minutes.)

## [Staff Report Presented at the Meeting](#)

At the February 14 meeting, the Department of General Services presented their recommendation to begin pre-design work for a possible water system that would be interconnected with the Village of Paeonian Springs as well as interconnecting the Paeonian Springs sewer systems with Waterford's.

They also requested use of \$1.5 Million from the Water & Wastewater Fund for Pre-Design Work and Cost Analysis of potential Interconnected Communal Systems. (This work will take about 18months)

If Pre-Design Work identifies issues preventing Interconnected Communal Systems, staff will return with individual village solutions.

Staff will work closely with Department of Finance and Budget Grant Analysts to identify funds to support final design and construction.

They included a message of public health and safety concern concerning the high number of shallow wells (<25') still in use today.

The motions in the meeting passed 5-0. They were sent to the February 21 Business Meeting for the Board of Supervisors on the consent agenda and were subsequently passed 9-0 by the Board of Supervisors.

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## 1. Analysis of villagers’ responses to the November Department of General Services survey:

80% of the Water Survey Respondents support a water Project in Waterford.

70% of Respondents selected ‘Yes’ to a Community Water System.

Table 2. Village of Waterford Community Survey Results

		Responses		70	97.2%
Do you Support a water Project in Waterford?	Total Parcels	No	12	17.1%	
		Yes	58	82%	
	Parcels with Structures	No	12	17.6%	
		Yes	54	79.4%	
Do You Support Option 2 (shared wells)		No	49	71%	
		Yes	20	29%	
	Parcels with Structures	No	45	66.2%	
		Yes	20	29.4%	
Do You Support Option 3 (Communal)	Total Parcels	No	21	30%	
		Yes	49	70%	
	Parcels with Structures	No	21	30.1%	
		Yes	49	69.1%	
If Communal System Offered, Would You Connect?	Total Parcels	No	17	23.6%	
		Yes	19	26.4%	
		Unsure	36	50%	
	Parcels with Structures	No	16	24.2%	
		Yes	17	25.8%	
		Unsure	35	53%	

## 2. Waterford Water Committee Observations from the Video of the February 14 Finance Meeting:

- Loudoun County BOS has formally acknowledged the water problems in Waterford and the Chair stated, “it has never been ‘if’ we solve Waterford water problems, it has been ‘how’ we fund this.”
- Acknowledgment of the water problems in Waterford.
- Department of General Services Director Ernie Brown states the Public Health concerns relate to Waterford’s Water scarcity and significant number of wells <25 feet still in use.
- The proactive memo stating no development or structures would be able to connect to the proposed interconnected water system.
- 80% of Community Members selected ‘Yes’ to a Water Project and the support for that was noted as an outstandingly high number.

## 3. Potential Benefits of an interconnected solution for Waterford and Paeonian Springs:

- One potable drinking water facility. To be located outside of the WFI properties and outside of the national historic landmark.
- Wells for the water project are likely to be outside the landmark.

- No special tax district, capital expenses funded through Federal funds, BIL, USDA, EPA, VDH/ODW, LC CIP, and/or Grants applied for by the County.
- The County issued a requirement that no other community or structure would connect to this interconnected system via Water System Commission Permit. That means no increase in development potential because of this water solution.
- Waterford residents are not required to connect to the water system.
- You may connect and keep your well for irrigation if the two systems are bifurcated.
- Loudoun Water would own and maintain the Water System.
- Maintenance of Water System, pumps, filters, et. al. responsibility of Loudoun Water.
- The current rates for water provided by Loudoun Water as about \$27 per month for a family.
- Parcel owners with structures would get a water meter installed and be responsible for one-time fees to connect from their water meter to their home.
- Loudoun County estimates up to 20% or more in Capital Expense savings for a two-village solution. Loudoun Water notes significant savings of running one water system.

#### **4. The Current Waterford Wastewater Treatment System Requires an Update to Meet EPA Standards.**

- Ammonia levels in the system are over the limits.
- Lagoons need to be retired with an update.
- Design and Commission Permit through DEQ required by 2025. This time frame existed independent of the water application or water project.
- When the current water treatment lagoons are retired, there will be the potential to have a historic contextualized structure (via historic review process) to replace current building.
- No footprint increases from the current system.
- Efficiencies with new technology.
- Stated financial benefits to the county of 20% or more Capital Expenses and significant savings in operating expenses from building a second facility near Paeonian Springs.