



FY 2017 Recommended Budget Budget Question

Board Question #: 85

BUDGET QUESTION: Is it true that Spotsylvania High School and Livingston Elementary School are having water issues? If so, what is being done to remedy the situation? How are the remedies being paid for?

RESPONSE:

Well at Livingston Elementary

There has not been a problem with the well itself at Livingston Elementary School. However, there was an issue that caused the school to lose water pressure for a short period of time on one day. The issue was with a transducer and pump. These were repaired and paid for out of the Maintenance operating budget.

During the brief time the school lost water pressure, the Health Department was notified and the Maintenance department utilized the existing action plan devised for situations like this one. The plan enables the school to have bottled water delivered if necessary. Maintenance contracts with a vendor to deliver potable water to fill the tank if need be. A Maintenance crew stays on site until the water issue is resolved. With the school system having several schools on wells, the plan was put in place over the last two years to respond in such cases.

The School Maintenance Department and County Utilities work together to ensure both drinking water and waste water systems remain operational. The School Maintenance Dept also works closely with the VDH office located in Culpeper.

Wells at Spotsylvania High School

In Spring 2015, the output of the two wells at Spotsylvania High School was discovered to be about half of what they originally produced. Having adequate water to hold school at Spotsylvania High and Post Oak Middle was never in jeopardy. However, in order to sustain a satisfactory water supply in the future, these wells were re-worked, which did provide an immediate increase in water flow.

A third party vendor was brought in to assess the long range water situation for these schools and the adjoining water works. It was determined that drilling additional wells on school property would be beneficial to ensure adequate supply in the future.

Since that time, two new wells approximately 800 feet deep have been successfully dug on site. Maintenance, the contractor (Timmons), and County Utilities have worked together on this project. Future meetings between these entities are planned. Flow tests and water tests have been sent to the Health Department and have received positive responses. A water treatment plan is currently being developed and must ultimately be approved by the Health Department. A tank and chemical feed pump will be required for each well, and these will then require the installation of two pre-engineered metal buildings to house them.

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The new wells, once on line, will generate 209 gallons per minute, more than enough to accommodate the two schools on site even if/when programming is expanded at Spotsylvania High School. In addition, should the future elementary school (currently pushed out of CIP 2017-2021) be built next to Spotsylvania High School, these wells will accommodate that school as well. It is anticipated the entire project will be completed by June 30th.

Funding for the well project at Spotsylvania High School is being provided by the CIP.

It should be noted that County Utilities has taken over all school well water testing from a third party vendor to help reduce costs to the school division. Schools utilizing well water include Berkeley Elementary, and John J. Wright Cultural Center in addition to Spotsylvania High School, Post Oak Middle School and Livingston Elementary School mentioned above.