

Caroline County Board of Supervisors Agenda Executive Summary

Meeting Date: February 8, 2022

Title: First Reading – TXT-01-2022 Proposed Amendment to the Code of Caroline County, Chapter 92-Sewers

(Check Mark)

Consent

Action

No Action (Information Only)

Resolution

Closed Meeting

Public Hearing

Ordinance

PowerPoint Presentation

Summary: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Department of Planning is conducting a review of the County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation program which includes the septic-pump out program.

As the next phase of the septic pump-out, DEQ is requiring that the County take active enforcement actions (violation notices) against properties that fail to provide evidence of septic system pump-out as required by state and local regulations.

In reviewing county regulations, Chapter 92 of the County Code does not presently contain provisions to require septic pump-out, although such provisions are referenced in the County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation regulations in Article XV-Section 17 of the Zoning Ordinance. To address this deficiency, staff is requesting the Board to authorize a public hearing at its March 8, 2022 meeting, to amend Chapter 92 of Code of Caroline County to include septic pump-out language, thereby allowing the County to continue implementing its Chesapeake Bay program and ensure compliance with the DEQ review.

Budget Impact: None

Action(s) requested of the Board of Supervisors: Conduct first reading and authorize public hearing for the March 8th meeting.

Presenter: Michael A. Finchum, Director, Planning & Community Development

An Ordinance to Amend the Code of Caroline County as follows:

TXT-01-2022: An Ordinance to amend the Code of Caroline County, Chapter 92, Sewers, by amending Section 92-16, Pumping and Disposal of Sludge, to add Paragraph D. The purpose of this amendment is to include septic pump-out language, thereby allowing the County to continue implementing its Chesapeake Bay program.

§ 92-16 Pumping and disposal of sludge.

D. On-site septic System Pump out Required.

For properties located within a Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area established in accordance with Article XV, Section 17 of the Caroline County Zoning Ordinance, onsite sewage treatment systems not requiring a Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit shall have pump-out accomplished for all such systems at least once every five years.

(1) If deemed appropriate, and subject to conditions set forth by the health department, owners of such systems, as an alternative to the mandatory pump-out, may be provided the option of having a plastic filter installed and maintained in the outflow pipe from the septic tank to filter solid material from the effluent while sustaining adequate flow to the drainfield to permit normal use of the septic system. Such a filter should satisfy standards established in the Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations (12VAC5-610) administered by the Virginia Department of Health.

(2) In lieu of requiring proof of septic tank pump-out, owners of onsite sewage treatment systems may submit documentation every five years, certified by an operator or onsite soil evaluator licensed or certified under Chapter 23 (§ 54.1-2300 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia as being qualified to operate, maintain, or design onsite sewage systems, that the septic system has been inspected, is functioning properly, and the tank does not need to have the effluent pumped out of it.