



Town Manager
Eric Pollitt

Town Attorney
Diane M. Lank

Town Treasurer
Faye D. Johnson

Town Clerk
Patsy K. Scates

Chief of Police
James G. Ashworth Jr.

TOWN OF TAPPAHANNOCK

P. O. Box 266
Tappahannock, Virginia 22560
(804) 443-3336 Fax (804) 443-1051
www.tappahannock-va.gov

Mayor
Roy M. Gladding

Town Council
Kay Carlton
Marcia W. Jenkins
Fleet Dillard
Kenneth A. Gillis
Troy L. Balderson
Anita J. Latane

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 6th, 2022

Contact: Eric Pollitt – Town Manager

epollitt@tappahannock-va.gov, 804-443-3336

TAPPAHANNOCK WATER METER UPGRADE PROJECT

The Town of Tappahannock will be utilizing a portion of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for replacing its antiquated water meter system with a proactive remote reading system. The current water meters will be replaced with new AMI (remote reading) meters, provided by Fortiline. The new remote reading system will allow all meters to be read from town hall, without needing a person to physically inspect meters on-site. Every water meter on Tappahannock's system will be replaced at no charge to its customers. This replacement program is expected to start in April and finish in August of 2022.

Once the new meters are installed, Tappahannock will be one of the few communities in the state to have the most advanced meter reading system available. AMI stands for Advance Metering Infrastructure. AMI consists of a low-powered communication device that is added to your new water meter. The device transmits hourly water usage information over a secure network approximately eight times per day. AMI meters do not communicate with other meters, or with appliances in the home. With this upgrade, customers will have access to more frequent and detailed information about their water consumption, a modern online customer portal, and multiple electronic customer notification methods when leaks occur.

Customers will be notified of the meter upgrade in their April utility bill. Water service may be interrupted for 5-10 minutes for a normal residential water meter exchange. The installation crew will assess the need for any repairs to the meter enclosure or surrounding infrastructure. In addition, a new meter box lid may be installed. The town or the town's contractor may need to clear the area surrounding the meter box to allow access for new meter installation.

Tappahannock's Water & Sewer Committee and staff will be meeting Fortiline representatives April 5th to kick-off the project. Councilman 'Skip' Gillis on the committee said the following "This was long overdue. Many of our meters have been in the ground for over 20 years. Glad we will be receiving more frequent and accurate reads for our citizens." Councilwoman Latane commented on

the great use of ARPA funds and customer benefits. “Glad we can use these funds to upgrade our technology for our meters. People are excited to have a better and more interactive online customer portal. I know I’ll be signing up for text message and email notifications for when leaks occur.” Councilman Balderson stated “If we didn’t have other large dollar water and sewer projects already in the works, we would have done this a few years earlier. Glad we can use these ARPA funds to do this project now, rather than later.”

Mayor Roy M. Gladding stated “We are continuing to make progress in so many areas in our community. This is just one of them. Council has made a lot of smart investments of public funds over the last 18 months and the people will see the fruits of our labor here this year.” Town Manager Eric Pollitt said “This will free up the Public Works employees, allowing them to work on other tasks and projects. We will see a savings in overtime in the Public Works Department. Billings will be more efficient and routinely consistent, because the readings will be done from town hall. Everyone on staff is very excited for this new system.”

Please contact Angela Hart if you have any questions about the new water meter project at tapptown@tappahannock-va.gov or 804-443-3336.