

COUNTY OF YORK
MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 8, 2018

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator



SUBJECT: Save the Date – York County Picnic

As you know, the County picnic scheduled for last fall was canceled due to bad weather. It has now been rescheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2018. Please make a note of this on your calendar, and we will provide you with more information on times and activities in the near future.

Thanks!

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COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 2, 2018

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Neil A Morgan, County Administrator



SUBJECT: Snow Removal on Secondary County Roads

Purpose:

Last month's extended sub-freezing temperatures and the subsequent snow closed schools and businesses for an extended period of time. The question was then posed – why wasn't the County plowing roads? The following information provides an overview of the issue and a recommendation.

Background:

In the Commonwealth all county roads are maintained by VDOT with the exception of Arlington and Henrico Counties. Under its program, VDOT considers road maintenance to include repaving, road repair, drainage, litter removal, street sweeping, signal maintenance, roadside mowing, and snow removal. According to VDOT, if York County wanted to do its own snow removal, we would have to operate under the Local Assistance Program just as Arlington and Henrico do – adopting all roadway maintenance. Under this program York would be reimbursed for roadway maintenance at the per lane mile rate of \$21,061 per year for primary roads and \$12,365 per year for secondary roads. According to County GIS staff, VDOT maintains primaries that amount to 116 miles and 322 miles of secondaries.

If the County were to assume roadway maintenance, this program only funds to the current VDOT standard for mowing, pavement maintenance, and snow removal. It does not fund any improvements in service, meaning no snow removal for secondary/neighborhood roads unless the County funds the additional work. Generally, VDOT only does snow removal for primary roads. Public Works' staff discussed the program with our neighboring cities. All three tell us they supplement funds they receive from VDOT for roadway maintenance – sometimes in the millions of dollars. VDOT spent \$950,000 on the last snow storm clearing roads on behalf of Surry, James City, and York Counties. Approximately 40-50 percent of that was spent on York primary roads. For further context, Newport News reports they spent \$960,000 for both recent snow events. Neither of these efforts included secondary/neighborhood roads. To our knowledge, no Hampton Roads locality provides snow removal to secondary/neighborhood roads.

Recommendations and Other Considerations:

The staff does not recommend taking on roadway maintenance for the sole purpose of snow removal. Other considerations for snow removal: Could the County pay VDOT for additional contractors as some counties do for roadway mowing and litter removal? Might we collaborate with VDOT in the roads chosen for snow removal? Both options have been posed to VDOT. As we get answers, we will share those as well. However, even if VDOT is willing to allow the County to pay for supplemental contractor snow removal, it is quite likely the cost/benefit of this option would not be favorable.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Mark Bellamy at 3844.

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