

Public Works Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Tuesday, June 16, 2008

Public Works Department Conference Room

CAC Representatives Present

Mr. Thomas Herbert, Vice Chairperson

Mr. Douglas Coenen

Ms. Sandra Davis

Ms. Sharron Kitchen Miller

CAC Representatives Absent

Mr. Phil Bomersheim

Ms. Lois Custer

Dr. Harold Cones, Chairperson

Ms. Patricia VonOhlen

Mr. LaMonte Williams

Public Works Representatives

Mr. Ralph Caldwell, Assistant Director of Public Works

Mr. Roy Chesson, CAC Liaison

Additional Attendees

Jim Monahan, CAC Appointee (term begins in September 2008)

The CAC Meeting was not officially called to order due to lack of a quorum. While there was no official meeting, the members present did discuss several topics, which are reported below. This report is filed for record keeping purposes only.

The Committee agreed to continue meeting next fall on the third Tuesday of each month. The fall dates are therefore: September 16, October 21 and November 18.

Mr. Caldwell gave a presentation on the Public Works Academy, currently being offered at the Pruden Center in Suffolk, VA. He discussed the background that led to its development, the participating municipalities, the program courses, and the numbers of students and graduates for the program years to date. He also expressed the desire to have a Public Works Academy on the Peninsula (possibly at New Horizons) to make it easier for local students, as well as local Public Works employees who might serve as instructors, to attend. The Strategy to Achieve the Right Trade (START) program was briefly discussed as well. This program is currently being developed by Newport News to train trade interns to become employees in Public Works, Waterworks, and Parks and Recreation.

Possible topics for the fall meetings were suggested. The Committee would like to have a presentation by department Administrators on the functions of each of their divisions (an In Service Briefing) in September. It has been several years since this was last done and there are

many new Committee members who have not had this presentation. Two other topics that the Committee would like are 1) an update on the “Put it in the can if you can” campaign including status of implementation and any data on its effectiveness; and 2) a presentation on the energy management system.