

November 11, 2024

Written Testimony on Sewer Connection Request

You will be conducting a hearing on November 12, 2024, at 1:30pm related to a property on 12720 Piney Meetinghouse Road that abuts Palatine Drive in the Palatine Subdivision in Potomac. The property at 12720 Piney Meetinghouse Road currently is a single home on a 7-acre lot that is on a well/septic system. The owner is attempting to subdivide his lot into 3-4 lots and connect the subdivided lots to the Palatine neighborhood public sewer system.

The property owner's request to connect into the Palatine neighborhood sewer system should be denied as connecting it as requested would add additional strain on a system that is already somewhat fragile. As it is, because the public sewer lines sit above the level of many of the properties, homeowners are required to install and maintain expensive grinder pumps that pump the homeowner's sewage up to the level of the sewer lines. Additional stress on that system could result in catastrophic sewage backup in homes as a result of overtaxed sewer lines that overwhelm individual homeowners' grinder pumps.

This problem actually occurred a couple years ago when WSSC was required to temporarily turn off the water in order to connect lines toward Glen Road. When the water was turned back on the sudden flow caused a backup into homes (including mine) because the capacity of the grinder pumps was suddenly overwhelmed by the sudden inflow of water in the sewer lines. Connecting more homes to our already fragile sewer system risks similar catastrophic events in the future.

We respectfully request that the 12720 Piney Meetinghouse Road property owner's request to connect to the Palatine sewer system be denied.

John D. Duncan, Jr.