

6-1-05

### Commission Mail Review

Commission Administrator Anita Lewis reviewed the commissioner's mail and agendas items.

### Discussion: County's Portion of Transient Room Tax

### Trespassing Issues

### Regular Session - Commission Chambers

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Introduction of New Employees

County Attorney David Brickey introduced Gus Chin who will be a new prosecutor in the County Attorney's Office.

### Public Input

Skip Domenick, a resident of Silver Springs and member of the homeowner's association board, stated that he had written a letter asking that the appropriate Public Works personnel and a member of the Commission address a groundwater drainage system to support the Silver Springs Subdivision. He explained that when the Silver Springs development was approved by Summit County, a separate ground water drainage system, which extends throughout the development, was required within the same easements as the other infrastructure. The drainage system consists of a network of thousands of feet of 8- to 10-inch perforated pipe buried at a depth of 6 to 10 feet. The manhole access points to maintain the system, which are about four feet in diameter, are covered by steel lids, some of which are buried one to two feet below grade. He explained that this system is almost impossible for the homeowners association to maintain, and he believed the cost to address the problem would be only a few thousand dollars. He requested that he be allowed to meet with the Public Works Department and one or more of the County Commissioners to find a solution to the problem.

Chair Richer clarified that this groundwater drainage system was never maintained by the County. He noted that the costs incurred to resolve the problem are not likely to be significant. The Silver Springs master homeowners association is one of the largest in the Snyderville Basin, and Chair Richer believed the costs pro-rated on a per-home basis would be minimal. He noted that there has been flooding in numerous areas of the County, and the County tries to help when it can. In terms of legal issues, the County does not want to set a precedent, and the County does not handle any groundwater drainage systems in the County.

Commissioner Elliott suggested that the discussion address what needs to be maintained, how it can be accomplished, and what resources other than the Public Works Department are available to maintain the drainage system.

Public Works Director Kevin Callahan stated that it was his understanding that the first phase of Silver Springs was required by the County to install a private drainage system because of the high water table. From a practical point of view, the homeowners association can do a number of things to maintain the system, or they could hire a service to maintain it. He explained that the County was able to find the plans showing how the system is laid out. Chair Richer noted that the engineering firm is still in existence and that the original developer is still in the area, so there are resources that can provide information about what was built.

Mr. Domenick stated that he has tried to locate the access points, and it is not practical for the homeowners association to maintain the drainage system. He explained that there are no public works people involved in the homeowners association, and the association does not have the background and resources to maintain the system. He reiterated his request for County help to maintain the drainage system.

Public Works Superintendent Mark Offret explained that much of the landscaping in Silver Springs has been put over the drainage system, and most of the problem has to do with root growth. He explained that the County has no equipment to clean out the roots.

Commissioner Woolstenhulme commented that the problem is a homeowner's problem and not the County's responsibility. If the County were to assume this type of responsibility in all unincorporated areas of the County, an entire Public Works division would have to be put in place to deal with all the drainage problems. He stated that it has never been the County's intent to maintain drainage systems. He believed the engineering firm should have a copy of the as-built plans and that it should be easy to identify the manholes. If the drains are plugged, the association will have to hire someone to clean them out. He did not see how the County could help Silver Springs and turn down similar requests elsewhere in the County.

Chair Richer suggested that Mr. Domenick assess the cost of clearing the drainage system and determine the cost per homeowner to implement a special assessment to get the work done. Mr. Domenick stated that he wants an expert in public works to work with the homeowners association and help them understand what they need to do since Public Works does this sort of thing all the time. Chair Richer explained that the Public Works Department does not work with drainage systems at all. Chair Richer requested that the Public Works Department see if they could do anything as a good neighbor to point the Silver Springs Homeowners Association in the right direction to find someone who can help them solve their problem.