



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Dana Woodson
(757)393-8641

City Manager Announces Selection of New Public Utilities Director

Portsmouth, VA -- City Manager Kenneth L. Chandler announces the selection of Bryan D. Foster as the Director of Public Utilities. Foster will begin in the position on November 2nd.

Since February 2009, City Engineer, Richard Hartman, has served as the Interim Director for the department due to the retirement of former Public Utilities Director James R. Spacek.

Foster will manage the department which is responsible for treating drinking water, wastewater collection, and maintaining the water distribution lines that deliver water to homes and businesses. Public Utilities also maintains the sanitary sewer lines and sewage pumping stations which carry wastewater away from homes and businesses.

Most recently, Foster served as the County Administrator for Halifax County, Virginia from November 2004 until December 2008. In his position, he was instrumental in a major public utilities project where he facilitated the creation of a regional water and sewer utility system which combined the systems of Halifax County and the Towns of South Boston and Halifax. In addition to managing the installation of the centralized financial software system, Munis, he also coordinated the integration of utility data into the system as the county was the fiscal agent for the new regional utility, providing all financial functions including billing and collections. Foster managed the construction and development of a new solid waste transfer station that opened in September 2008. Other accomplishments during his tenure include coordinating Halifax's participation in a new regional landfill that serves three counties.

From 1997 until 2004, Foster was the Town Manager of the Town of Altavista, Virginia. As the Chief Administrative Officer, he initiated a project to install an Ultraviolet Light System at the wastewater treatment plant for effluent disinfection, eliminating the use of chlorine gas. In addition, upgrades that he and the staff implemented at the wastewater treatment plant won an award from the Virginia Rural Water Association naming Altavista as the 2003 "System of the Year".

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From 1995 until 1997, Foster was the Director of Municipal Services for the Town of South Hill, Virginia. In this position he was responsible for the daily operations of administration, library, water, wastewater, and public works, including maintenance of all streets. Of his accomplishments in this position, Foster coordinated the upgrade and increased capacity at the wastewater treatment plant. He was the project manager for the construction of an approximately 12-mile water line extension to serve two state correctional facilities. In addition, he updated the Town's Comprehensive Plan for which they won an award from the Virginia Citizen's Planning Association.

"I am excited to be joining the Portsmouth team. Water and sewer service is vital to the health and success of the community and I am looking forward to working with the employees to ensure high-quality service delivery," said Foster.

Of his professional designations, Foster is an International City Manager's Association Credential Manager and member, a graduate of the University of Virginia Senior Executive Institute, and a member of the Virginia Local Government Management Association. Foster, a Virginia native, is a 1993 College of William and Mary graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy and Economics. He also received his Master of Public Administration degree from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1995.

Foster is married to his wife, Mona, and they have a dog, Phoebe.

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