

April 2019

Water/ Waste/ Hospital Update

Water Supply

According to a telcon with Ivor Berrington on the 10th of April hope of an improvement to the erratic water supply has materialised with a R30m grant from government **AND** via an unexpected source in the last 2 weeks. Gideon Groenewald of **Gift of the Givers** made contact and came and presented to the Municipality. Gideon is a trained hydrologist and worked as a consultant to the Department of Water Affairs 20 years back ago. He had worked in Graaff Reinet and had knowledge of 3 very good dormant boreholes. A team was dispatched to the Camdeboo and in Ivor's words "between the bulrushes and the buffalo" the 3 boreholes were located! These have now been opened, pumps inserted and yields are being determined. These boreholes are close to existing infrastructure and thus costs will not be too high. One of the many examples of work being done by Gift of the Givers in Makhanda (Grahamstown), <http://giftofthegivers.org/disaster-relief/south-africa/1196-2019-disaster-relief-sa/drought-relief-2019/7443-makhanda-declared-a-state-of-disaster>.

According to Ivor renovation work has also been done at the filter plant for water feeding from the dam so that once rains come again and the town is in a position to use the dam water the filtering plant will be ready.

Waste Transfer Station

According to a telcon with Bennie Arendse on Friday 5th April. N1 Construction and other service providers were appointed to assist with the moving of waste and approximately half of the backlog has been moved. Funds are now depleted and private contractors can no longer be used until more money is allocated in July.

On a positive note 2 municipal trucks that were out of action have now been repaired. One has been paid for and is shifting 5 loads per day. The other truck cannot be released for lack of budget and non-payment of the service provider.

Bennie did say he was looking for a way to get budget.

Hospital Development Update

Various people have asked whether the hospital development is still happening. It is and the decision to continue is very much still on the cards! This week discussions have been held with Mr Kit Wostenholm of Samaritan Healthcare and Jakkie Pretorius who is involved with the initial development, zoning, water, and approvals.

As Kit explained there are two phases—the development phase and the phase when the operator (Samaritan Healthcare) moves in. Currently the development phase has been held up due to the water supply issues. The development team (and Jakkie Pretorius has confirmed this) will only move on site once a service level agreement has been concluded with the Municipality guaranteeing the required amount of water needed per day. According to Jakkie 400 litres per bed per day and some is needed. The licence to build a 100-bed hospital has been granted by the Department of Health and an extension has been granted. Costings for a 50-bed hospital have been done but it would be preferable to still push ahead with the larger hospital once the water guarantee has been provided.

In this interim phase Kit has assured me that as much work as possible is being done to move the whole project forward. Local doctors and other practitioners have been contacted to provide input and to gauge “enthusiasm”. Referrals have been provided by these practitioners for doctors in PE who have also been contacted. Based on this research the most suitable fit of beds for different aspects is being determined eg. The amount of beds to be allocated for medical, surgical, post-operative sub acute. Post operative sub acute beds will be provided for those who have had major surgery in PE and who need to still be cared for while they recover. Kit hopes to have all this research wrapped up by the time the go ahead is given to proceed with the hospital development.

Some concern has been expressed due to restructuring at one of the consultants EOH. However this has had no effect on the plans, EOH is a consultant and will be involved in the engineering side. They are not involved in the development phase.

Jakkie Pretorius will be expanding his farming interests in the Bethesda area in the near future.