



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 2/5/2026

**RAPIDAN SERVICE AUTHORITY WEIGHS OPTIONS IN AFTERMATH
OF GORDONSVILLE’S REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH SEWER AGREEMENT**

ORANGE COUNTY, VA – The Gordonsville Town Council recently voted to stop billing for sewer services provided by Rapidan Service Authority (RSA) to the Town’s customers, effective March 30, 2026.

RSA was created in 1969 to provide essential water and sewer solutions for the region that includes Orange and Madison counties. One of RSA’s first missions was to establish a drinking water supply for the Town of Gordonsville. When it faced infrastructure challenges in 1985, the Town approached RSA about taking over the sewer system. In agreeing to take on this responsibility, RSA assumed the Town’s debt and built a modern treatment plant.

Under the 1985 agreement, the Town is RSA’s customer and pays RSA a wholesale rate for sewer service. The Town has established individual accounts with the Town’s customers and bills them for sewer services.

While RSA disagrees that the Town Council may unilaterally terminate the Town’s obligations under the 1985 agreement—a binding contract—RSA is willing to assume the Town’s obligations, as shirking them would endanger the lawful provision of sewer services to the Town’s residents and businesses.

But transitioning the Town’s obligations to RSA cannot be accomplished overnight. New accounts for Town customers will have to be established with RSA. Town customers’ identification and billing information must be shared with RSA. Continued access to water meters and facilities necessary to bill users and provide service, and all associated easements and other rights, must be honored. To date, the Town has refused to share required information or confirm the necessary access and other rights.

The Town’s resolution to stop billing for sewer services has major consequences, as RSA must charge rates sufficient at all times to cover the cost of maintaining, repairing, and operating its systems. RSA cannot indefinitely provide reliable sewer services to Town users without a mechanism to bill for those services.

If RSA receives all user account data and required assurances by the Town, RSA will advertise proposed rates and hold a public hearing to establish a retail rate structure for Gordonsville users. These rates will apply to both in-town and out-of-town users and will reflect the true cost of sewer service, eliminating markups that the Town has been adding to its bills.

While Gordonsville users **do not** need to take any action at this time, the Town's designated date of March 30 to stop honoring its agreement is fast approaching. Accordingly, this matter remains urgent.

RSA welcomes the opportunity to improve the quality and efficiency of water and sewer services to the Gordonsville community and remains committed to professional operation and rates set according to industry standards. RSA looks forward to a constructive dialogue with the Town to finalize the technical details of this transfer for the benefit of the community. Additionally, RSA has offered to assist the Town in finding what appears to be significant leakage in the Town's water system, which would result in savings for the Town and its water customers.

Media Contact

Tim Clemons, General Manager
(540) 972-2133
tclemons@rapidan.org