

**FY 2021-2022 Virginia Beach Budget  
Response to Council Questions**

**Question Number:** 97

**Question:** Staff states that an employee was forced to dig a significantly deep hole by hand instead of using the automatic equipment on hand that was designed to handle this job. Is this true? Why did this happen?

**Date Requested:** 4/27/21

**Requested By:** Councilmember Wooten

**Department:** Public Utilities / Public Works

**Response:** We found that the hand digging issue may have been related to a specific employee in Mosquito Control. It was a one-off incident. On occasion, we will ask roadway staff to assist Mosquito Staff with minor excavation work. There was an occasion recently where that assistance was not available and hand digging was required. It was not a significant excavation, but the employee wanted us to dispatch a resource that wasn't available to assist in a task that didn't require it. Additionally, sometimes, hand digging is required when other utilities are in the immediate vicinity of the work the city crew is completing.