

**MINUTES**  
**WATER SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, November 6, 2008**  
**7:00 PM Town Hall Barn**

**Members Present:** Dan Barker, Ron Butler, Marshall Gray, Paul Kimple, Joe Phelps, Cheryl Thomas and James Watts

**Members Absent:** Stephen Beck

**Elected Officials:** Frances Dancy

**Staff:** Julie Vance and Will Baker

**Visitor(s):** none

**ITEMS:**

**1.1 Call meeting to order**

Chair Ms. Thomas called meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**1.2 Consideration of additions to the agenda**

Mr. Phelps asked for the WWTP Upgrade/Rate Study is added at the Blank Agenda Item (#3.5).

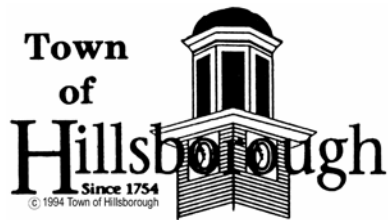
**1.3 Consideration and Discussion of past months minutes**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Phelps and seconded by Mr. Butler to table the adoption of minutes from the last meeting until the December meeting.

A computer glitch caused the minutes file to be lost. The minutes for September, October & November will be ready for review and acceptance at the December meeting.

**2.1 The November Engineering Status Report was presented by staff.**

- WWTP is in compliance. The Town was awarded a \$492,000 grant by the State to pay for part of the WWTP design and permitting for the WWTP Upgrade and Expansion. Staff will begin the review of process for the selection of an engineering firm to complete the design of the WWTP.
- The Town had no reportable sewer spills during October.
- The WFER is 4 inches below full. The platforms for the valves at the reservoir are complete and the new valves are here. We are now designing an installation that will protect staff and equipment during the process. One of the old valves is currently operational in case water needs to be released. Currently all valves are closed during the installation process and Lake Orange is releasing more to maintain the minimum flow requirement of the Eno.
- After retesting for TTHMs, the Town is now compliant. We will be using the lab used for the retest for all future testing. New lines are being laid to change the chlorine and ammonia feed as recommended by the State after the first high TTHMs test results were received. The change was made today and initial tests have shown a large, instantaneous reduction in the results.



- The Town is in Stage 1 Withdrawal Restrictions, but this does not affect current usage.
- GIS is complete and only awaiting data from new construction.
- The engineering department is requesting a recommendation/statement from the WSAC on the recent rate study.
- Several manholes were relined by a contractor. A different contractor was hired to replace the sewer line that served the building where Wal-Mart used to operate. The line it feeds into was jetted and vacuumed. The sewer line behind Gold Park was jetted and vacuumed of old debris that was left over from past dye plant activity. The sewer service on Mollie's Court was extended. Duke's Root Control will be here in the next couple of weeks to perform their contracted maintenance.
- Quotes have been obtained for the budgeted TV Inspection System and Vacuum Trailer. After a loan has been secured with the lowest available rate, the equipment will be purchased.
- The engineering portion of the Elizabeth Brady Pumpstation Upgrade will begin in the next couple of months now that the Lakeshore Outfall is operational.
- WK Dickson has begun site work on the Lawrence Road water line replacement.

## **2.2 Updates concerning Water/Sewer issues:**

### **2.2a Town Board Meeting (10/13/08)**

Paul Kimple's reappointment was approved. The sewer line was accepted and the warranty began for the Tubiolo Sewer Project adjacent to Churton Grove. The resolution was adopted to request assistance from the NC Aquatic Weed Control program for the control of hydrilla at the WFER (to keep algae production under control).

### **Joint Public Hearing (10/16/08)**

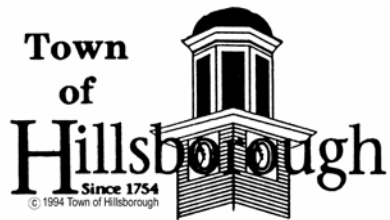
No water or sewer issues were discussed at the meeting.

### **Town Board Work Session (10/27/08)**

The Commissioners adopted a resolution to submit a grant application towards converting 44 homeowners (plus 3 vacant connections) from a private well to the Hillsborough public water supply. An informational letter will be sent to the affected citizens informing them of the change, along with general water use information (e.g. 1 person uses an average of 1200-1400 gallons of water a month). Although their alternative was moving if another acceptable safe water source was not found.

### **2.2b Planning Board Update**

Barker – refer to Joint Public Hearing above



### **2.2c Interlocal Agreement Steering Committee**

Phelps – They are currently trying to define a service area for Hillsborough's water and sewer utilities in the future. The next meeting will be in early December to continue reviewing the map and come to an agreement on Hillsborough's future utility boundary. The map will be submitted to the Town Board in January and to the citizens at large in the Spring.

### **3.1 Privilege Charge to Customers that use Debit Cards**

Upon further investigation into charging Debit Cards users an additional usage fee, Greg Siler discovered that it would violate our user's agreement (contract) with the bank. An usage fee cannot be charged when the card is swiped in house and/or if the card information is taken over the phone. Bank usage fees should be considered another cost of doing business. However, a fee can be charged if payment is made through the internet. Greg was also told that municipalities may be excluded from the rule. The agenda is tabled indefinitely until Greg has any additional information.

### **3.2 Lake Orange Update/Neuse Hydrological Study**

The Friends of Lake Orange approached and introduced themselves to the Orange County Commissioners on October 21, 2008 in the open forum of the meeting. A signed petition was submitted encouraging the funding of a new release valve at Lake Orange and the reevaluation of the net safe yield, among other things. As of today, Orange County staff has not been directed to move forward on the project. The Town has committed \$25,000 towards the project and is willing to release the funds towards preparatory work for the release gate, but have requested a letter of commitment from the County towards finishing the installation once the funds are made available in the next budget year.

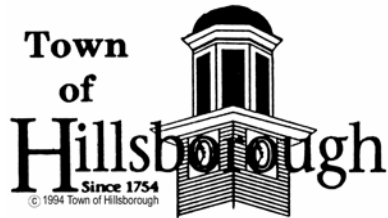
Next Wednesday, the meeting has been scheduled to reveal Neuse Hydrological Study.

### **3.3 Regional Cooperation, Wholesale Rates & Interconnects**

Drought Management Legislation will be in effect in July, 2009. This legislation allows the State to assume control of interconnects and rates based on needs and available water. The Town is looking into charging a separate rate for irrigation meters and possibly having an increasing variable rate based on usage.

### **3.4 2009 Town Board Meeting Calendar**

Staff has assigned WSAC members to the 2009 Town Board meeting schedule. If changes need to be made, the members should contact staff or contact the alternate.



**3.5 Recent Capital Facility Rate Increase (Raftellis)**

One of the primary reasons for the capital facility rate increase is the upgrade/expansion of the WWTP. The Town is only increasing the treatment capacity of the WWTP by ½ million gallons, but the majority of the costs will be incurred to meet newly proposed discharge permit limits by the State. The capital facility fee increase is proposed to make new users pay for the upgrade/expansion of the WWTP, in lieu of raising monthly utility rates and making current users pay for it.

If no new users were accepted, it might be possible to delay construction on the WWTP between 3 to 7 years (per Mr. Baker), before an upgrade would be required to avoid paying fines when the WWTP will not be able to meet the required limits on the discharge permit.

Further discussion and explanation by Town Staff (Kenny Keel) on the proposed increase was requested by the WSAC during the December meeting. After this additional explanation, the WSAC will then decide what kind of comment/recommendation they will make on the capital facility rate increase.

**4.1 Suggested future agenda items for upcoming months**

- ERP – Incident Management Plans and how the Town would respond
- Refer to reoccurring agenda item list

**4.2 Review Committee Assignments for coming month**

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|------|---|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 4.2a | * | Town Board Meeting (11/10/2008)    | Phelps/Barker |
| 4.2b | * | Town Board Work Session (11/24/08) | Beck/Kimple   |

**5.1 Adjourn**

A motion was made Mr. Kimple and seconded by Mr. Butler to adjourn the meeting and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie E. Vance,  
Secretary