

MINUTES
WATER SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 2, 2006
7:00 PM Town Barn

Members Present: Dan Barker, Chris Cole, Dorothy Johnson, Paul Kimple, Jim Singleton and James Watts
Members Absent: Katherine Sanders and one vacant position
Elected Officials: Eric Hallman
Staff: Kenny Keel

ITEM #1 Chair Watts called meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

ITEM #2 The following additions were made to the agenda:

- Added as Item 10 – Three Committee members need to be reappointed.
- Added as Item 10A – Ways to control irrigation to prevent excessive water usage.

ITEM #3 A motion was made by and Seconded by to accept the
MOTION: January meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #4 The Feb Engineering Status Update included briefing on the following:

- No problems currently at WWTP.
- 12 reportable spills for 2005
 - Issued NOV for #10, Committee will receive Town's response letter, along with NOV letter, at next month's meeting.
 - It was suggested installing telemetry
- WTP upgrade is finished and we are now in negotiations with Atlanta Skanska on liquidated damages. The State regulator exaggerated the Dec 31, 2005 deadline to encourage us to close the loan. The actual deadline is September 30, 2006. Skanska has come up on their price, but it was not enough for the Board. The Town Manager is now waiting on a call from Skanska to see if they are interested in raising their offer so it is kept out of court.
- The contact time study is currently being conducted, with results expected some time next month.
- We are still in violation with Trihalomethane levels in the water. The 12-month average, using the latest quarterly result is the closest we have been to passing since being out of compliance at 0.082 mg/l (limit = 0.080 mg/l).
- No current water restrictions.
- Signed Cates Creek Outfall Easements continue to trickle in.
- We will receive quarterly updates from OCIM on the Utility Assistance Program. It will include dates and amounts given. The finance department is still having software issues, but as soon as it is resolved, the committee will receive monthly updates on the fund balance.

- The water pressure on Hwy 70A East should be improved permanently sometime next week. The last of the needed PRVs are being installed this week.

ITEM #5 Town Board Update:

December 12 – No one attended

- Ashton Hall is proceeding with a January 24th Public Hearing, and will likely see a Town Board vote at the February meeting.

December 26 – meeting cancelled

ITEM #6 Commissioner Gering's Requests of the Committee:

Relating the Rate Model and the Water Capacity Model

- The Committee has decided to put relating the rate model and the water capacity model on hold until it is directed to do so by the entire Town Board.
- The Committee is not interested in redefining their charter and getting more involved in the details of approving proposed developments and projects. We only wish to watch and understand their activities in order to be proper stewards of Hillsborough's water capacity and utility operations. The committee only wishes to comment on Planning Board activities if they take a direction that conflicts with the basic ideology of the WSAC.
- Fiscally, the Town is not able, without raising rates substantially, to build phase II of the reservoir and seek an additional water source for future users. Seeking a contract for long-term water purchases from neighboring systems is a much more feasible option. Later when the customer base is larger, seeking additional water sources will be more fiscally approachable.
- The current water conservation practices of our customers, stretches out the Town's current capacity to last longer than predicted. Even though financially we need customers to use as much water as possible, operationally we are better off in the long run with capacity.
- The goal is to correlate land use to water capacity with the Strategic Growth Plan Steering Committee direction.
- In the future and as the Committee educates themselves with the approval process, the WSAC would like to have a liaison role. Specifically, if projects affect the Town's utilities, then the WSAC would expect to be consulted for their take on the issue and have a voice in the process.

Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan

- Update the committee on the status of May 2003 recommendations that were made in the plan (Appendix A).

MOTION: A motion was made by Watts and seconded by Kimple to update the WSAC on the status of the May 2003 recommendations that were made in the plan. The motion passed unanimously.

SIDELINE ITEM: All Department Heads are turning in their Annual Operations Reviews and information in preparation for the February 11, 2005 Town Board Retreat. Kenny will come to the February meeting and provide you with a copy of the same information. This will ensure that the WSAC will be included in the entire utilities budgeting process.

ITEM #7 The committee still has not seen the meeting schedule for the latter part of the year for Town Board meetings during 2006. Staff will be emailing the entire schedule to all committee members tomorrow and if members incur conflicts they should let Chair Watts know.

ITEM #8 Kimple volunteered to serve on the Strategic Growth Plan Steering Committee after Watts opened the floor for volunteers. It was also decided to have an alternate list, in lieu of one alternate. The alternate list includes Singleton, Watts, Barker, Cole and Sanders. Meetings will be every other month with the first meeting scheduled for January 26, 2006 at 7:00 PM in the Town Barn. Attendance is imperative for whoever is appointed, and that he or she attend all meetings or inform someone on the alternate list.

MOTION: A motion was made by Watts and seconded by Barker to recommend Mr. Kimple as the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee member representative on the Strategic Growth Plan Steering Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #9 After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Committee is not interested in updating the 2004 Report and Recommendations at this time.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Barker and seconded by Ms. Johnson to defer another review of the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee 2004 Report and Recommendations in one year's time after the Strategic Growth Plan has been compiled. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM #10 Blank agenda item was not needed for this meeting.

ITEM #11 Barker made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kimple seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie E. Vance
Utilities Analyst