

**MINUTES**  
**WATER SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, May 4, 2006**  
**7:00 PM Town Barn**

Members Present: Dan Barker, Paul Kimple, Katherine Sanders, Jim Singleton and James Watts

Members Absent: Chris Cole and two vacant positions

Elected Officials: Frances Dancey

Staff: Eric Peterson, Kenny Keel and Julie Vance

Visitor(s): Jeff Mahagen

ITEM #1 Chair Watts called meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

ITEM #2 The Update on Strategic Growth Plan Steering Committee Activity (item #6) was removed due to Paul not being at the last meeting.

ITEM #3 A motion was made by Kimple and seconded by Barker to accept the  
**MOTION:** April meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- Proposals have been received on the Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion/Durham treatment of wastewater. One has been selected and will be given to the Town Board from review and acceptance if they are agreeable with the proposed selection.
- No sewer spills last month, and as of this calendar year we have only had one.
- Reservoir is still currently full.
- We are still in non-compliance with our Trihalomethanes. The first quarters were two high to put us back in compliance, but we have testing for the next quarter in a couple of weeks and believe that we will finally be back in compliance since taking the new 1M gallons clear well out of service. Some non-compliant testing (results not required to be reported to the State) was performed this week to give us an idea of where we are. The results should be back some time next week and will us a week to improve the actual testing results if needed (i.e. flushing, clean basins, etc.). We need an average result of .068 mg/L to be compliant again.
- All but 3 Cates Creek Outfall easements are signed and in hand. We have reached agreements on the remaining three, but they have not been signed and money has not yet been exchanged. We hope not to have to condemn any properties. Construction is expected to begin on the outfall in the next two weeks.
- Thalle has started on constructing their new headquarters on 86N, which will also include the installation of a new outfall to service Tuliptree and the 18 new Habitat for Humanity houses.

- ITEM #5 Town Board Update:  
April 10 – Sanders
- The water line extended by Kerr Drug was accepted by the Town, which now begins the one-year warranty period.

April 24 – Watts

- Meeting of Town Board with all the chairs of the various Volunteer Boards met together to discuss their working relationship and how they work with the Town Board. Their goal was to keep all Volunteer Boards in alignment and chairs should not take things upon themselves without the support of the Town Board.
- Discussed the possibility of there being orientations in place for all new volunteers to take that participate on Volunteer Boards.
- The Town accepted liquidated damages from the Water Plant upgrade and the loan with the State is being closed.

- ITEM #6 Item was removed from the agenda to be discussed at the next meeting.

- ITEM #7 The Eno River Confluence meeting covered many issues concerning the protection of the Eno River. A detailed history of the Eno was also given by several participants that was not only interesting, but assisted with the discussion. The main topics of discussion were as follows:

- Purchasing treated water from Durham, instead of drawing our supply from the Eno.
- The dropping level of Lake Orange during certain months and the suggestion of using more from the West Fork of the Eno Reservoir and less from Lake Orange. Town participants were also concerned that the few Orange County residents that live around Lake Orange have a larger impact on decision-making concerning the use of water in the reservoir. They were well aware before purchasing lake front property that the lake's primary use was as a reservoir for the Town of Hillsborough, yet a few feel they should have authority of a decision that will affect over 11,000. Even though to a certain point the Town may be willing to supplement their use more with the WFER and use less from Lake Orange, it was pointed out that the two reservoirs were independent of one another. At this point the Town is very guarded with their assigned water capacity with so much new development on the horizon.
- A follow up meeting will be held sometime in the Fall to continue the open discussion of the Eno River interests with all interested parties.
- Points of interest:
  - The Eno River is the only tributary that feeds into the Neuse River that is not listed as degraded. Eno River Association contends that at least 6 - 10 cfs is necessary to protect habitat in and around the river.
  - James met the new person in charge of managing the Neuse River Basin at the State level. She seemed interested and we may invite her to attend a future meeting should the need arise.

ITEM #8 The FY 2007 budget is nowhere near being finished at this point. Eric was hoping to have at least the expenses to the Committee by today, but the bids for the study today were much more than expected, therefore he had to go back to the rate model to make additional adjustments. Eric is not sure if he can make his self-imposed deadline, and the first budget workshop may have to be cancelled. Frequent interruptions and a rate model that is not user friendly are the main reasons for the delay of completion.

Another point that was mentioned is that the proposed FY07 budget includes installing permanent generators at the remaining pumpstations and the Annex. Kenny will be putting together a proposal sometime next FY. Eric also stated that a utility rate increase will be necessary as part of the FY07 budget. He is not sure how much the increase will be, but he did say this would not be the only increase in the next couple of years. The committee recommended that he figure how much of an increase will be needed and split it in half between the two increases, instead of having one small increase and then a couple years later having a large one.

ITEM #9 We are currently waiting for a response from Durham with an analyses how much it will cost for them to sell us treated water. An additional pipeline will have to be constructed to supply us with the proper flow. As far as the wastewater treatment analysis, we will have to await the results of the wastewater treatment plant study that should be complete sometime in January 2007.

The engineering firm selected to complete the study of the WWTP is CH2M Hill. They are a national firm with excellent staff. There were 4 proposals submitted and theirs was superior. They have even had experience studying regionalization options, which is what we are looking at with Durham. Another plus with them is that they have worked with Durham in some of their past projects.

ITEM #10 A quarterly report was given on the Utilities Assistance Program for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2006. OCIM has had 27 requests for assistance. Of the initial \$5,000 donated to the program, \$1,796.97 has been used. Requests for donations began in March 2005 and the average gift of donation has been \$11.08 with 87 utility customers donating (>2%). As of 4/27/06 the fund has \$4,166.71. The request for donations is being put on the web site and we are also researching collecting donations on-line in the near future.

ITEM #11 Staff compiled a new Term Schedule for Committee Members to allow two members a year (one in-town and one out-of-town) to require reappointment. The committee accepted the proposed changes and Staff will get it on the next available Town Board Agenda to get the changes approved and finalized.

ITEM #12 Blank agenda item was not needed for this meeting.

ITEM #13 Barker made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Sanders seconded the  
**MOTION:** motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at  
7:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie E. Vance  
Utilities Analyst