



TOWN OF
HILLSBOROUGH

Utilities Department Status Report for Feb. 2024 (covering Jan. 2024)

PROJECT/CATEGORY	STATUS
WTP	<p>The raw water pumps recently started struggling to provide enough flow. Both have to be run to deliver where one should be fully capable. We learned from the repair vendor that the motors are in bad shape and pump parts/valves need to be rebuilt/replaced to restore capacity. Having to work off contingency funds for this not so inexpensive work. The pumps are almost 20 years old.</p> <p>Staff learned about the raw water pumping station variable frequency drive system, which was recently worked on last summer, when it failed in a recent storm and needed to be reset. The feed is from two different circuits which need to be reset before the unit can be reset, and there is a delay feature of 5 minutes.</p>
WWTP	<p>Hazen and Sawyer was selected to perform Wastewater Plant Master Planning after an RFQ effort. This project will focus on what to do with the existing WWTP regarding handling nutrients and future capacity and what other options exist to treat wastewater.</p>
West Fork of the Eno Reservoir	<p>The reservoir is almost spilling! A few more good rains... Already wave action is going into the piano key weirs. Phase II normal pool is 53 feet.</p>
Developments/Other	<p>The Collins Ridge developer has paid all of its \$115,000 proffer.</p> <p>RTL project has begun after a precon meeting. Freese & Nichols is observing the project for us. We are also supporting the developer in a variance from NCDOT to not fill the casing pipe beneath I-40 carrying the new sewer which would make it very hard for us to repair if failed.</p> <p>CDJR is open. Aldi is opening. Both will be brought to BOC for acceptance along with remaining phases in Forest Ridge after additional documentation is provided by the developer.</p> <p>East Village at Meadowlands is under review. There are concerns with water pressure for this project that the engineer will need to address.</p> <p>Nash Place is under review however the engineer is not addressing town comments for the town to assume ownership. Their option is to keep it private or revise the design to town standards for future looping. Bob Hornik is assisting in communications.</p> <p>A main break occurred on the water main feeding the RESCO parcel. The break was within the casing pipe that goes beneath the railroad. With this issue, the railroad requires certain additional steps for repair. This repair is beyond crew capabilities and a contractor was hired under an emergency procurement.</p>

	<p>Costs could escalate already above the estimated \$50,000+. Staff is communicating with RESCO and has offered to provide water for employees.</p> <p>The rate model billing data has been provided to Raftelis. The data included a massive export of water (over 400,000 rows) and sewer billing (over 250,000 rows) of consumption and billed data by month by account from the past five years. The data needed to be scrubbed to provide the correct account class and rate code for the model set up. While a lot of work, the spreadsheet will be useful for other tasks, such as quickly evaluating average monthly consumption for various types of facilities. It has already been useful for finding a few account errors that are/have been corrected.</p> <p>Numerous other smaller matters we are dealing with every day – too numerous and cumbersome to list. We are working very hard.</p>
Fiber Installs	<p>Brightspeed is the third fiber vendor to want to install in town. They have claimed exemption from needing an agreement with the town. On 1/29, there were 20 boring crews in town! Locate tickets are about 1300 a month where before this work, an average of 350 tickets per month were received. Spectrum has also inquired. Tyler and Bryant along with Joel and Lacy's team are keeping on top of things best they can. We are using locators from McKim and Creed as well. Hydrant tampering subsided in Dec., but a few calls were received in Jan.</p>
Staffing	<p>Ethan Oles started with the town on 1/29 taking Al Robertson's position. Ethan worked for the town in the past and recently was at OWASA. Curtis Watkins obtained his B Surface Certification. Brent Anderson and Graham Dodson obtained their Collection 1 certifications. Joey Smith obtained his grade 2 biological wastewater certification. A new locator, Connor Pettiford, began with the town recently. One mechanic position is open.</p>
Funding	<p>BRIC grant kickoff with the state contact was January 17. A kickoff with ICF to assist with grant management on both BRIC and other grants also occurred. Water System Master Planning through our AIA grant is underway, and a contract is being routed to begin our Hassell St/US70A Preliminary Engineering grant.</p>
Water and Sewer Advisory Committee (WSAC) Activities	<p>Two out of town vacancies are open. The next meeting is in February. Jenn Sykes will continue as chair and Daniel Rawlins will be Vice Chair. The joint WSAC/BOC meeting scheduled for February 1 is cancelled due to lack of topic, but the regular WSAC meeting will be held.</p>