



TOWN OF
HILLSBOROUGH

Utilities Department Status Report for Jun. 2023 (covering May 2023)

PROJECT/CATEGORY	STATUS
WTP	<p>COMPLETED: A valve stem on a filter has broken and needs to be repaired right away. The plant is running its remaining two filters but must curtail flushing the interconnections and watching demands during this time. Contractors have been called.</p> <p>NEW: The town just found out one of four quarterly sample sites for disinfection byproducts exceeded the minimum contaminant level for TTHMs (total trihalomethanes). The value was .095 and the exceedance level is .080. This does not put our long-term running average over the limit for state enforcement or further action. We do have to notify the affected homeowner of the exceedance. It has been several years since we had an exceedance. In fact, our disinfection byproduct sampling has been much lower than in past years. We are unclear why this site hit and are flushing to bring this value down. Only thoughts are due to rain and high turbidity in the water in March and April a basin wash could not be performed. Other sample sites were not as elevated.</p>
WWTP	<p>COMPLETED: The SCACA computer motherboard fried, and the computer needs to be replaced. Staff had to work extra hours to monitor the plant during this time. Deputy Director of Water Treatment Jeff Mahagan acted quickly to solicit quotes and schedule the replacement.</p>
West Fork of the Eno Reservoir	<p>The reservoir is around 48.5 feet. Phase II normal pool is 53 feet. Clearing of brush and trees is occurring at the end of the spillway outside the river buffer as recommended by the state inspectors. Also, quotes are being obtained to revitalize the rotting railroad tie steps leading to our tower walkway.</p>
Water Restrictions	None
King St. Sewer	<p>An emergency repair was made at the intersection of King St. and Occonechee St. due to a crushed 6" sewer main and to be ahead of imminent paving of the road by NCDOT. The repair cost \$108,000 and was completed in one day, earlier than expected. A possible credit may be given as the job was less complex and shorter than anticipated.</p>
Orange St. Sewer	<p>The town is working to repair a blocked 6" sewer made of 40s era Orangeburg pipe (think pressed tar paper) off W. Orange St near Warner Ln. The sewer was likely installed privately to serve one parcel around that time as it goes in between several homes off road, but as the larger lots subdivided and new homes constructed, they were tied into it, including one on Warner Ln., which did not exist back in the 50s. Historically the town has worked on the sewer, not knowing it was undocumented, originally private and had no established easement. The town is going to replace this sewer and obtain an established easement. Quotes are being obtained.</p>
Elizabeth Brady Pumping Station Pumps	<p>An evaluation of the pumping station has determined the pumps are worn and in need of replacement. The pumps should be pumping at least 900 gallons per minute and are underperforming at around 625 gallons per minute. The pumps were piled with rags despite having a "chopper" device in the manhole upstream. A social media blast was</p>

	<p>made regarding rags with photos. The new spare pump will be outfitted with a new impeller that was recently purchased to provide additional capacity to 1,400 gallons per minute. Then the 2nd pump will be pulled and evaluated for rebuild or replacement. Depending on that outcome, up to two new pumps will need to be purchased.</p>
Developments	<p>The Lawrence Road project goes to the County Commissioners for vote on June 6. The county planning board did not vote for the project.</p> <p>Staff is working with developers of Forest Ridge, Collins Ridge, Harmony at Waterstone and Fiori Hills to get through town acceptance or warranty phases.</p> <p>Staff is working with the Waterstone South developer, who previously presented their concept to the board several months ago and received favorable feedback on their project, as downstream improvements to the Cates Creek outfall and Elizabeth Brady pumping station will be accelerated over what was presented in the collection system phase 2 modeling report. There is also a proposal to combine two existing pumping stations into one new station and to provide a second water connection for redundancy and quality as part of the project.</p> <p>Collins Ridge is undergoing master plan and Phase 1B modifications. Phase 2 Special User Permit is also active. WSECs for Phase 1B and James J Freeland Memorial Drive water main are expired and need to be renewed.</p> <p>Aldi's received their building permit and the Waterstone fire/EMS station received their certificate of occupancy.</p>
Fiber Installs	<p>So far existing work which is mainly outside of town on NCDOT roads has resulted in about six damage incidents to town mains (one 2" water, 3" sewer force main - twice) or services (3). Half of them were mismarked by the town (error or incorrect maps) but the others were properly marked, and time and materials will be charged back.</p> <p>Staff is reviewing maps for the Google in-town effort. There will be a significant amount of installation crews on the job when permits begin to be issued and the utilities expects a plethora of locate tickets and needing to respond to damages. Expecting to start in mid-June. The town does have temporary on call locators assisting.</p>
Lawndale Rehab Project	<p>The project page is under review and bid dates are being selected. The project will be to rehabilitate most of the sewers by cured-in-place lining with a few excavations to fix point repairs.</p>
Funding Opportunities	<p>We submitted the paperwork for our \$100,000 grant for water system master planning to the state and have signed the contract with Hazen & Sawyer to get started.</p> <p>We also have received \$70,000 in grant funds to perform a technical evaluation of Hasell St tank and US 70A Watermain Replacement. These technical reviews will provide high level recommendations and costs to move forward. A request for qualifications was issued with proposals due May 24. Several firms expected to be interested in the project declined to submit due to resource limitations. One proposal was received and is being reviewed. If not sufficient, we may have to go back out for submittals.</p> <p>We received some guidance on the OWASA Booster pumping station STAG award. Will work through that. A formal application is required.</p> <p>Nothing on the FEMA BRIC awards. Paperwork processing is slow.</p>

	We submitted the Eno River Interceptor project to Rep. Meyer's office. Awaiting next steps.
System Development Fee Analysis	Raftelis is working on our system development fee analysis as required by law to revise every five years. Due to law revisions, it is more intensive than earlier. We must identify all developer donated and grant projects as these need to be backed out of the calculations. The proposed fees will need to be on public notice for 45 days prior to adoption. This may extend beyond the budget adoption, unfortunately, and we expect to meet again with their team on June 20. August is when we expect to adopt the fees after the public notice.
Easement Mowing	Bi-annual easement mowing will begin soon.
Engage Hillsborough	Utilities staff offered the blind water taste test at the event and municipal water edged out jug water by over 50%!
Bill Format	WSAC suggests expanding the detail on the utility billing statement to be more descriptive of the calculated rates. Discussion with financial services and communications has started about that and some language changes.
Staffing	Utilities remains fully staffed except that Al Robertson announced his retirement as of June 30. We will be advertising for the position externally and internally. Two plant maintenance staff completed Maintenance Tech 1 schooling and will take the exam for their certifications in the coming month. The night water plant operator took his C Surface exam recently and thinks he did well. Results forthcoming. The other night operator has been out on leave but should be returning in June.
Water and Sewer Advisory Committee (WSAC) Activities	WSAC recommends some bill layout adjustments for which the director has shared with the financial services department. WSAC is meeting bimonthly. At the June 1 meeting, they will vote on a special meeting to discuss backflow prevention enforcement of existing residential pool owners, tentatively slated for June 13. The next regular meeting, if no additional special meeting is called after June 13, is August 3. There is a joint meeting with the board on August 28 at their workshop.