



TOWN OF  
**HILLSBOROUGH**

**Utilities Department Status Report for Oct. 2023 (covering Sep. 2023)**

PROJECT/CATEGORY	STATUS
WTP	<p>A broken finished water pump valve has been repaired.</p> <p>We are looking at advancing to a full SCADA system for the WTP and abandoning the 1970's push button control panel.</p> <p>Annual license to operate fees have increased by about \$700 with the new state budget passage.</p>
WWTP	<p>The annual wastewater quality report has been released. You can find it here: <a href="https://assets.hillsboroughnc.gov/media/documents/public/annual-wastewater-quality-report.pdf">https://assets.hillsboroughnc.gov/media/documents/public/annual-wastewater-quality-report.pdf</a></p>
West Fork of the Eno Reservoir	<p>The reservoir is around 46.5 feet. Phase II normal pool is 53 feet.</p>
Water Restrictions	<p>We are on Stage 1 low flow water withdraw restrictions as of Sunday July 23. Withdraw from the Eno is limited to 1.510 mgd unless the town releases more to make up the difference. Our minimum release requirement is 1.0 cfs but we have been releasing between over 4 cfs due to additional demand and low flow in the Eno.</p>
Pumping Stations	<p>The current focus is a check valve that has failed at Cemetery pumping station rendering one of the pumps inoperable. Also, the backboard housing the control panel equipment is in poor shape. We hope to get these two items replaced together and soon, possibly using ARPA funds.</p>
Developments	<p>Harmony at Waterstone water and sewer was accepted on 9/11. The town has accepted a settlement agreement with Forest Ridge developer to receive money for future increased inspection and cleaning instead of having them replace two sagged sewer segments. This will allow the town to accept the remainder of the water and sewer (and streets) once a few more punch list items are completed. Attorneys are working with Fiori Hills developer to address some warranty punch list items and easement encroachments so that performance and warranty bonds can be released.</p> <p>We have invoiced Collins Ridge developer for two proffers in the amount of \$115,000. One is for flow monitoring. The other is a participatory share in our water main interconnects project which benefitted the development. That project was completed a few years ago. The developer still needs to pay.</p> <p>At the last BOC workshop, a presentation was given about development challenges and how the town is working to shore up its development process for future projects.</p>
Fiber Installs	<p>Starting to see a big uptick in water theft from subcontractors. We have been alerting the main vendors to the issues and invoicing the violators. Staff is fielding several calls and sending out fines.</p>

System Development Fee Analysis	New system development fees have been adopted and are based upon bedrooms for residential development. Nonresidential development is based upon design flows in state regulations multiplied by our cost per gallon calculations. IF certain new laws pass, we may have to recalculate our fees based on a lower gallon per bedroom. To be determined.
Staffing	<p>Our locator quit for family matters. Now two utility maintenance technician positions are open, one focused on locating are open. We are utilizing our outside locating contract to assist while we are short a locator. The admin team is also helping with locates. Interviews for Al Robertson's position are not yet scheduled.</p> <p>Nathan Cates went to A surface school and Curtis Watkins went to B surface school recently and will take their certification tests. Tyler Freeman went to a government contracting course with the school of government. Lucas Cates attended a distribution certification school. Marie Strandwitz took a seminar at school of government. Joel's team had a traffic control refresher and a valve operation course. Keith Scarboro passed his Collection Grade 4 exam (the highest collection system certification obtainable)!</p> <p>Several staff assisted with the Government 101 tour on 9/28. It was successful. Many great questions were asked of the participants. We could speak all day about utilities!</p>
Backflow Code	Still under development but will be very simplified – no air gap agreement (too much to track for benefit) or hose bibb vacuum breaker (covered under plumbing code). Hope to bring forth to BOC in November or early December. Refunds for compliance with current code being discussed at WSAC October meeting with recommendations to BOC forthcoming.
Flow Monitoring	We are gearing up to insert flow monitors in our outfalls to monitor capacity.
Funding	<p>Staff is working on the Engineering Report for Lawndale after receiving an Intend to Fund letter from the State Revolving Fund (\$1.16M at 0.76% interest over 20 yrs. with \$500K principal forgiveness). We will need to adjust our plans and specifications to add SRF conditions which will be a scope change with the consultant.</p> <p>The two FEMA BRIC grant awards are formally being drafted! We also have an option of a STAG grant for the OWASA booster pumping station we are working on evaluating.</p> <p>We need to investigate grants to assess lead service lines for which a town inventory on both the public AND private side is due by October 2024.</p>
Water and Sewer Advisory Committee (WSAC) Activities	The WSAC/BOC joint meeting was held Aug 28. A direction was provided on backflow prevention for existing residential in ground pools. A study of an increasing block rate structure was not advanced. There is one out of town member vacancy that is being solicited. One applicant (and former member) changed their mind.