

Subject: Request to be Placed on Town Commissioner's Agenda 11 March 2024 meeting
Date: Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 5:48:02 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: sarusalvi@nc.rr.com <sarusalvi@nc.rr.com>
To: Sarah Kimrey <Sarah.Kimrey@hillsboroughnc.gov>
CC: Eric Peterson <Eric.Peterson@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Mark Bell <Mark.Bell@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Robb English <Robb.English@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Kathleen Ferguson <Kathleen.Ferguson@hillsboroughnc.gov>, 'Matt.Hughes' <Matt.Hughs@hillsboroughnc.gov>, 'Evelyn Lloyd' <Eveyn.Lloyd@HillsboroughNC.gov>, Meaghun Darab <Meaghun.Darab@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Eric Peterson <Eric.Peterson@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Marie Strandwitz <marie.strandwitz@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Robert Hornik <hornik@broughlawfirm.com>
Attachments: Inv_1751_from_LCG_of_NC_Inc._17232 Backflow removal.pdf, To the Esteemed Members of the Town Council.docx

Hello Sarah

I hope things are going well, and that you enjoyed the long weekend.

I am writing to formally request to be placed on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting to discuss the reimbursement of the cost I incurred for removing the Backflow Valve at my property located at 506 Silver Fox Cir., Hillsborough, NC 27278.

Attached is my invoice for the removal and a document outlining reason for the request.

Saru Salvi
919-259-3323

To the Esteemed Members of the Town Council,

I am writing to respectfully appeal the current policy regarding backflow valve removal costs, specifically as it applies to my residence at 506 Silver Fox Cir. This concerns the **unfortunate sequence of events** surrounding the mandatory installation of backflow valves followed by a reversal of that requirement.

Following the Town's demand letter, I complied in good faith with the installation, incurring a significant cost of \$1,500. However, I soon learned that **other residents in similar situations did not face the same mandate.** This inconsistent application of the policy created an unfair situation where some of us, the **compliant residents, are now burdened with the additional expense of removal,** while those who chose not to install initially incurred no costs at all.

The current reimbursement program, while acknowledging the initial installation cost, **neglects the additional and substantial expense of valve removal.** This incomplete compensation further amplifies the **inequity faced by compliant residents like myself.** We not only bore the initial cost but are now unfairly left to manage the removal, all due to a shift in the Town's policy.

Given this situation, I urge the Town Council to **reconsider the policy regarding backflow valve removal costs,** specifically for cases where the installation was mandatory and then reversed. To address this inequity and ensure fair treatment for all residents, I propose the following options for your consideration:

- **Full reimbursement of the \$1,500 removal cost:** This would simply make me whole in this situation, where I acted in good faith based on the Town's initial mandate.
- **Partial cost coverage:** Offering a significant portion of the removal cost would significantly alleviate the financial burden and demonstrate a commitment to addressing the policy inconsistency.
- **Revision of the reimbursement program:** Modifying the program to encompass both installation and removal costs, considering the disruption caused by unnecessary equipment, would create a more equitable outcome for all affected residents.

I believe this issue warrants your immediate attention to ensure **fairness and equal treatment for all town residents.**

LCG of NC, Inc.
 PO BOX 893
 Denver, NC 28037

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
2/13/2024	1751

Bill To
Saru Salvi

P.O. No.	Terms	Project
	Due on receipt	

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Unit	Amount
Remove existing backflow and straight pipe domestic water line	1	1,500.00	sum	1,500.00
			Total	\$1,500.00

Phone #	3362130105	E-mail	lesliereeves@charter.net
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Subject: RE: RPZ Reimbursement - Salvi.pdf
Date: Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 3:40:50 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: sarusalvi@nc.rr.com <sarusalvi@nc.rr.com>
To: Mark Bell <Mark.Bell@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Robert Hornik <hornik@broughlawfirm.com>
CC: Robb English <Robb.English@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Kathleen Ferguson <Kathleen.Ferguson@hillsboroughnc.gov>, 'Matt.Hughes' <Matt.Hughs@hillsboroughnc.gov>, 'Evelyn Lloyd' <Eveyn.Lloyd@HillsboroughNC.gov>, Meaghun Darab <Meaghun.Darab@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Eric Peterson <Eric.Peterson@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Marie Strandwitz <marie.strandwitz@hillsboroughnc.gov>
Attachments: image007.png, image008.png, image009.png, image010.png, image011.png

Thank you Mark. I never received the 29 Jan email from Eric. I even did a search.

I will review the instructions for on how to the next meeting.

Have a good week.

Saru Salvi
919-259-3323

From: Mark Bell <Mark.Bell@hillsboroughnc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2024 3:20 PM
To: sarusalvi@nc.rr.com; Robert Hornik <hornik@broughlawfirm.com>
Cc: Robb English <Robb.English@hillsboroughnc.gov>; Kathleen Ferguson <Kathleen.Ferguson@hillsboroughnc.gov>; 'Matt.Hughes' <Matt.Hughs@hillsboroughnc.gov>; 'Evelyn Lloyd' <Eveyn.Lloyd@HillsboroughNC.gov>; Meaghun Darab <Meaghun.Darab@hillsboroughnc.gov>; Eric Peterson <Eric.Peterson@hillsboroughnc.gov>; Marie Strandwitz <marie.strandwitz@hillsboroughnc.gov>
Subject: Re: RPZ Reimbursement - Salvi.pdf

Hi Saru,

Acknowledging your message from yesterday and am attaching Eric's response to your request for RPZ removal reimbursement from Jan. 29 at 12:15pm for reference. The Town Board cannot legislate via email, and we respectfully request that you follow the guidelines Eric outlined on the 29th to petition the Board for reimbursement. Please see [Section 2-6b of the Town Code](#) for details on your right to a request to be placed on a Board agenda.

Regarding Eric's response from the 29th, almost three weeks have lapsed since your earlier message and so the deadline for submitting your information to the Town Clerk may need to be pushed back to meet the requirements for assembling materials for the next available Board meeting. Typically, you should provide your materials to the Town Clerk two Wednesdays prior to the scheduled meeting of the Board at which you want to be heard. If you desire the Board to consider your request, you need to follow these steps. Alternatively, you may take your request to Small Claims Court, and I recommend you

engage an attorney to guide you through this process.

I hope this message is helpful and we look forward to your response.



Mark Bell | he, him, his

Mayor

[Town of Hillsborough](#)

101 E. Orange St., Hillsborough, North Carolina

Office: [919-296-9411](tel:919-296-9411)



Email correspondence to and from this address may be subject to the North Carolina public records law and may be disclosed to third parties.

From: sarusalvi@nc.rr.com <sarusalvi@nc.rr.com>

Date: Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 9:54 AM

To: Mark Bell <Mark.Bell@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Robb English <Robb.English@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Kathleen Ferguson <Kathleen.Ferguson@hillsboroughnc.gov>, 'Matt.Hughes' <Matt.Hughs@hillsboroughnc.gov>, 'Evelyn Lloyd' <Eveyn.Lloyd@HillsboroughNC.gov>, Meaghun Darab <Meaghun.Darab@hillsboroughnc.gov>

Cc: Eric Peterson <Eric.Peterson@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Marie Strandwitz <marie.strandwitz@hillsboroughnc.gov>

Subject: RE: RPZ Reimbursement - Salvi.pdf

Dear Mayor Bell and Town Commissioners,

I am writing to follow up on my previous request for reimbursement regarding the removal of the backflow valve on my property. As you know, I proactively complied with regulations and installed the valve in **April 2023**.

Attached you will find my invoice and check proving payment for the removal, which cost me \$1,500. I am deeply concerned that the current policy does not reimburse removal costs. This effectively penalizes proactive residents like myself who followed the regulations in good faith.

The current policy rewards those who waited to install the valve avoided both the initial installation and now the removal expense, creating a financial incentive to **not** comply with Town regulations. Conversely, residents like myself who acted promptly are now left financially worse off for complying with regulations that have since been reversed. This is simply unfair.

I urge the Town Board to reconsider the current policy and **immediately include removal costs in the reimbursement program**.

I prefer to avoid legal action, but I am prepared to pursue that option if my concerns remain unaddressed.

An immediate response and resolution by 29 February 2024.

Saru Salvi

919-259-3323

From: sarusalvi@nc.rr.com <sarusalvi@nc.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 4:23 PM
To: 'Marie Strandwitz' <marie.strandwitz@hillsboroughnc.gov>
Subject: RE: RPZ Reimbursement - Salvi.pdf

Please find the Invoice and a copy of the front/back of my check as well as the W9. Submission for reimbursement of the installation of the RPZ, does not mean that I am expecting reimbursement of the removal of the RPZ.

Saru Salvi
919-259-3323

From: Marie Strandwitz <marie.strandwitz@hillsboroughnc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 5:55 PM
To: Saru Salvi <sarusalvi@nc.rr.com>
Cc: sarusalvi@gmail.com; Eric Peterson <Eric.Peterson@hillsboroughnc.gov>; Troy Miller <Troy.Miller@hillsboroughnc.gov>; Bryant Green <Bryant.Green@Hillsboroughnc.gov>
Subject: RPZ Reimbursement - Salvi.pdf

Good evening, Saru,

I hope you are doing well. Attached you will find instructions regarding reimbursement of the installation and initial testing of your reduced pressure zone (RPZ) assembly as offered by our commissioners along with outreach information if you choose to instead utilize an air gap.

Thank you for your patience as we worked through the matter. Please let me know if any of the files are inaccessible. We will follow up with a hard copy priority mailing.

Sincerely,
Marie

Subject: RE: RPZ Reimbursement - Salvi.pdf

Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 4:30:56 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: sarusalvi@nc.rr.com <sarusalvi@nc.rr.com>

To: Marie Strandwitz <marie.strandwitz@hillsboroughnc.gov>

CC: Eric Peterson <Eric.Peterson@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Troy Miller <Troy.Miller@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Bryant Green <Bryant.Green@Hillsboroughnc.gov>

I have sent my paperwork to be reimbursed for the installation of the RPZ to Marie. I did not copy all, since the W9 has my social security number. I expect that the W9 to be forward to Accounts Payable without sharing this document with anyone else.

Furthermore, I would like to clarify that my current request solely pertains to the installation costs. I intend to submit a separate request for the RPZ removal expenses once the work is completed.

Saru Salvi
919-259-3323

From: Marie Strandwitz <marie.strandwitz@hillsboroughnc.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 5:55 PM

To: Saru Salvi <sarusalvi@nc.rr.com>

Cc: sarusalvi@gmail.com; Eric Peterson <Eric.Peterson@hillsboroughnc.gov>; Troy Miller <Troy.Miller@hillsboroughnc.gov>; Bryant Green <Bryant.Green@Hillsboroughnc.gov>

Subject: RPZ Reimbursement - Salvi.pdf

Good evening, Saru,

I hope you are doing well. Attached you will find instructions regarding reimbursement of the installation and initial testing of your reduced pressure zone (RPZ) assembly as offered by our commissioners along with outreach information if you choose to instead utilize an air gap.

Thank you for your patience as we worked through the matter. Please let me know if any of the files are inaccessible. We will follow up with a hard copy priority mailing.

Sincerely,
Marie

Subject: RE: Backflow Valve

Date: Monday, January 29, 2024 at 12:15:34 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Eric Peterson <Eric.Peterson@hillsboroughnc.gov>

To: sarusalvi@nc.rr.com <sarusalvi@nc.rr.com>

CC: Meaghun Darab <Meaghun.Darab@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Matt Hughes <matt.hughes@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Robb English <Robb.English@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Mark Bell <Mark.Bell@hillsboroughnc.gov>, 'Evelyn Lloyd' <Eveyn.Lloyd@HillsboroughNC.gov>, Kathleen Ferguson <Kathleen.Ferguson@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Marie Strandwitz <marie.strandwitz@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Robert Hornik <hornik@broughlawfirm.com>, Sarah Kimrey <Sarah.Kimrey@hillsboroughnc.gov>, Jen Della Valle <Jen.DellaValle@hillsboroughnc.gov>

Hi Saru,

I hope you are doing well. That was a nice article about you and your husband in Hillsborough Magazine last month. The answers to your two inquiries are below.

1. Staff is sending the RPZ reimbursement letters out tomorrow via priority mail. Thus, most people should receive the information within a few days.
2. Regarding your request to get reimbursed for removal of the RPZ you installed, this would require town board action and is not something staff can undertake without their approval. The following options are available if you'd like the town board to consider your request:
 - a. Attend the Feb. 12 town board meeting and sign-up to speak on "matters not on the printed agenda" before the meeting starts. You would be recognized early in the meeting and have three minutes to address the town board. The board could then provide direction on how to handle your request.
 - b. Make a request to Town Clerk Sarah Kimrey to be on the Feb. 12 agenda to address this issue. This can be done via email. The request should include the topic, request, and ideally supporting information that explain your case. To make the next meeting (Feb. 12) this would need to be received by the town clerk by 5:00 p.m. this Wednesday (Jan. 31). This is the same deadline we use for departments to submit information.
 - c. The same options would be available for the March 11 meeting, except the deadline for submitting information for an item on the regular agenda would be Feb. 28 or two Wednesdays before the town board meeting.

Sincerely,

Eric



Eric Peterson | he, him, his

Town Manager

[Town of Hillsborough](#)

101 East Orange Street, Hillsborough, North Carolina

Office: [919-296-9421](tel:919-296-9421)



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