

Utilities Department Status Report for Apr. 2024 (covering Mar. 2024)

PROJECT/	STATUS
CATEGORY	
WTP	 The chemical pumps in the plant are all new and spares are on hand. Still awaiting parts for the raw water pump rebuild and a control board for the main generator. A study kicked off to determine if the plant can utilize another form of disinfection rather than the chlorine gas that is so dangerous if mishandled or failed and requires extra
WWTP	 regulatory compliance. Influent grinder pump broke again and for several days staff had to manually clean the influent (River PS) bar screens which required confined space entry and overtime. A climate challenge related tour will take place on April 8 with Mayor Bell as one of the leads in organizing it.
West Fork of the Eno Reservoir	 The reservoir is spilling! The state recently had a training session for their dam safety staff and visited the reservoir as part of the training. The consultant who designed the dam is also looking to have an international conference in North Carolina that focuses on piano key and other alternative spillway designs. They have asked if they could use the reservoir as one of the tours.
Developments/ Other	 Collins Ridge developer still has not requested acceptance of Phase 1A well over a year after it was placed into service. There are still several items to address in Collins Ridge like a retaining wall placed within a sewer easement and several modified taps that now do not meet standards. Staff is running some sewer hydraulic modeling scenarios related to the Capkov proposal. The financial rate model is underway. The town attorney is helping staff work with the Nash Place developer on an acceptable water main layout for town acceptance to which they have been resistant. If an acceptable layout is determined, per town code the town would cost share in any upsized mains for town-wide needs. No start date yet for McAdams Rd water main replacement but anticipate by end of April or early May. Flow monitors will be placed in sewer outfalls for four months to compare flow to the prior modeling study completed a few years back the week of April 8 to help determine current capacity.
Lead Service Line Inventory	Federal regulations require the town to inventory all water services on the public AND private side and report to the state by October 16, 2024. We have started a GIS/paper process to narrow down areas of further investigation. We also are having plumbers confirm private side water service material as they submit for building permits that involve plumbing. We know the town used to have galvanized mains and service lines, but nobody has yet to report seeing lead pipe material. Over the summer, additional public information and survey will need to be distributed regarding this assessment.
Fiber Installs	Google is ramping up again in neighborhoods to install services after a delay due to customer complaints. Locate tickets definitely higher than before the fiber projects started! We seem to be keeping up with outside assistance.

	Locate Tickets by Year and Month 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 1400
Staffing	 The administrative position for utilities has requested to be advertised. Utilities is fully staffed with the addition of Amos Morris to the collection crew and with exception of the admin position.
Funding	RFQs for design/bid/construction services are due April 9 for the two FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities funded projects. Awaiting word on a bump to the BRIC grants as they have offered an overrun grant. Should find out in a few months. Other funded projects (water system master planning, Hassell and US 70) are underway.
Water and Sewer Advisory Committee (WSAC) Activities	Two out of town vacancies are open. WSAC is scheduled April 4 and generally will receive updates to projects and budget.