



**TOWN OF OAK RIDGE
WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 27, 2024 - 1:30 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL**

Minutes

Members present

Spencer Sullivan, chair
Erin English
Todd Hall (alternate, sitting)

Members absent

Francis Disney
Brian Hall
Phil McNamara

Staff present

Bill Bruce, Town Manager
Sandra Smith, Asst. Town Mgr./Town Clerk

Council liaisons present

Jim Kinneman, Mayor
Jim Harton, Council member

Others present

Todd Robinson, Envirolink
Ann Schneider, Council member
John Grey, The Wooten Co. (attending
virtually)

- 1) **WELCOME:** Chair Spencer Sullivan called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- 2) **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 20, 2023 MEETING MINUTES:** Todd Hall made a motion to approve the minutes. Erin English seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (3-0).
- 3) **UPDATE ON ELEVATED TANK AND WATER MAIN:** John Grey of The Wooten Co. reported that the elevated tank drawings had been submitted for permits. After NCDOT and erosion control permits have been received, the Town can move forward with bidding out the tank construction. Grey reported that the water line engineering drawings were 30 to 50 percent complete. A booster pump station will likely be needed. Town Manager Bill Bruce said he had spoken briefly with the property owner where the booster pump is being considered.

Grey said there was an issue with the proposed water line at one spot along NC 150 where it would interfere with a property owner's fence and landscaping, and Bruce said he would follow up with NCDOT to see if it is possible place about 5-feet of the water line in the right of way to prevent disturbance to the property owner. The committee discussed the possibility of moving the water line to the north side of NC 150, but decided against it due to the increased cost and sidewalk on that side.

Bruce mentioned that it is crucial to have American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated by December 31. Grey said that deadline would pose no problems on the water tank and likely no issues with the water line.

- 4) **NC 150-LINVILLE ROAD LOOP:** The committee discussed the proposed loop from Linville Road to NC 68, southward along NC 68, then back up Linville Road. Bruce estimated the cost for that construction to be about \$2 million. He said Town Council had included \$110,000 for water engineering in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for next year, and Council would also request money from the state through Senator Phil Berger.

- 5) **DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE STRATEGIES TO RECRUIT AND INCENTIVIZE CONNECTION:** The Committee discussed possible ways to get property owners to connect to the system and agreed to prioritize discussion of the topic in the next few months.
- 6) **VILLAGE WOODS CONVEYANCE AGREEMENT:** Spencer Sullivan, who is also a member of the Village Woods Property Owners Association (POA) board, reported that the board had taken over the system 3 months ago and now wanted to give it to the Town. The Committee discussed various aspects of the proposed transaction including benefits and costs to the Town. The Committee's consensus was to discuss the agreement at the next meeting and vote on whether to recommend approval to the Town Council.
- 7) **WATER SYSTEM UPDATE AND DRAFT FY 2024-25 ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET:** Bruce said he had asked Mike Myers of Envirolink to attend the next meeting and discuss the budget for the next fiscal year.
- 8) **ADJOURN:** Erin English made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Todd Hall seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously at 3:10 p.m.

Spencer Sullivan
Chair