

ABACOWS Meeting Summary Minutes

May 10, 2007

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Minutes Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina Advisory Committee on Wastewater and Stormwater Thursday, May 10, 2007

The meeting of the Atlantic Beach Advisory Committee on Wastewater and Stormwater (ABACOWS) was held Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room.

Members Present: Billy Brewer, John Lotspih, Bruce McFerren, George Richardson, Alan Shelor and James Willis, III

Members Absent: Don Clements, Thomas Lenweaver and Larry Moolenaar

Others Present: Judy Hills, Facilitator; Mayor Joyce Vinson; Mayor Pro Tem Eddie Dawkins; Councilman Mike Warren; Dave Harvell, Town Manager, March Schulze, Public Works Director, Ray Cordon and Dan Dawson of W.K. Dickson and Kelly Nash, Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Hills called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Acceptance of May 3, 2007 Minutes:

All committee members were in agreement to accept the minutes as written.

2. Public / Committee Comments

Mrs. Tiffany Woodard – 308 Club Colony, Atlantic Beach, NC

Mrs. Woodard opened the floor with several comments. 1.) She found it hard to believe that there was “glowing” reviews regarding the septic system in New Bern; 2.) wondering where are the results of the water sampling; 3.) where is the “resurvey” of the citizens/home owners; 4.) states that the Town nor committee has any verifiable evidence that Atlantic Beach has a sewer problem.

Mr. Ken Ide – 415 Club Colony, Atlantic Beach, NC

Mr. Ide stated that he got the impression, from last week’s ABACOWS meeting, that the committee was ready to make a recommendation to Council. he did state that a few committee members were questioning as to whether there is really a problem because there has not been any type of rain event to obtain the water samples. He doesn’t see how a recommendation can be made without anyone really knowing if there is a problem. He agrees with Mrs. Woodard, in that, this is a very expensive proposition and environmentally unsound.

Mr. Jeff Van Buren, 146 Fort Macon Road, Atlantic Beach, NC

Mr. Van Buren wanted to comment on the issue of pump and haul. He stated while living here he has watched various businesses grow. He states that the reason their septic systems do not work is because they have been paved over. He feels businesses have done this to themselves and feels this whole issue is all about the money.

Mr. John Lotspih - spoke on the newspaper article from the local health department which outlined four (4) options. Mr. Lotspih was not at a microphone; therefore a large portion of his commentary is unavailable.

Mr. Billy Brewer – directed his comments to those citizens that were unable to attend the May 3, 2007 ABACOWS meetings. He advised that Mr. Lotspih had drawn up a map diagram after talking directly

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with the local health dept. in identifying the problem areas and now the committee is trying to find out what would be a good conclusive recommendation for these areas.

Mr. James Willis, III – stated that he has been in contact with Rachel Noble of the UNC Institute of Marine Sciences regarding the water sampling results and does not see how any type of decision or recommendation can be made without these results.

Raymond Cordon of W. K. Dickson stated that W. K. Dickson is working closely with Rachel Noble at the UNC Institute of Marine Sciences. He advised that there are eight (8) locations that have been sited for sampling. The size of the first (1st) rain event only allowed them to get samples from five (5) of the eight (8) locations, this last rain event there were able to samples from all eight (8) locations and the testing is currently in the process with results soon. He advised that samples from just 1 1/2 rain events was not sufficient enough to obtain substantial data and asked for patience on this issue. He stated that unfortunately you cannot force the rain. Dan Dawson of W. K. Dickson stated that since Atlantic Beach is just starting a monitoring program and until the Town gets at least twelve (12) months of sampling, you will not get a good seasonal pattern/trend.

Councilmember Mike Warren spoke to the committee regarding making a fair recommendation, either for or against wastewater and storm water, do not get lost in the issue of fecal chloroform counts. He feels that whether the Town has this in the water, he's not exactly sure if this actually affects those property owners highlighted on the map that Mr. Lotspih presented to the committee at a previous meeting. He advised that a decision for a recommendation should be based solely on this issue.

Judy Hills stated that at the conclusion of this night's meeting an attempt will be made to come to some type of agreement in regards to wastewater options, if not, it will continue to the May 17, 2007 meeting to hopefully make a recommendation to Council at their May 21, 2007 Town Council Meeting. At this time, Mrs. Hills advised that Mr. Dawson and Mr. Cordon from W. K. Dickson will be making a presentation regarding a possible wastewater option.

3. Discussion of Wastewater Implementation – W. K. Dickson/Committee

Mr. Raymond Cordon started off the presentation by stating that he will be talking about a "Limited Backbone System" for wastewater, at the request of the committee. Mr. Cordon proceeded to hand out a list of wastewater options that included different variables and costs and maps that highlighted the various options mentioned. The following are the list of options presented: 1.) Original Backbone System; 2.) Limited Backbone System plus "Old Town"; 3.) Original Backbone System plus the new areas from Option 2; 4.) Town-wide System excluding the package treatment plant service areas as discussed in the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER); 5.) Town-wide System, per the PER.

(Clerk's Note: A copy of the list of options and maps are hereby attached and therefore made a part of these minutes.)

The committee members and engineers continued to hold a discussion regarding these options.

The committee, at this time, discussed the possibility of a revised survey that could be sent out to all property owners. The committee feels that if revised surveys are sent out the results would be quite different from the previous surveys.

The committee members held a discussion amongst themselves in order to come to a consensus as to whether Atlantic Beach needs a wastewater system implemented and to what extent. Several members agreed that Atlantic Beach needs some sort of system but they also agreed that there are certain specifics that need to be looked at upon designing a system for the Town.

Mrs. Hills, at this time, wanted to clarify where the committee was at regarding a possible recommendation for the presentation. All committee members agreed on the following:

1. Atlantic Beach need some level of a wastewater system (but only portions of town)

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- Survey problems areas identified by local health department
- Revised Citizen Survey regarding Wastewater
- Consider cost to citizens
- Find solution to the marine pump out situation
- Obtain and evaluate the results of DNA testing

Mrs. Hills, at this time, questioned the committee as to a spokesperson for the formal presentation of a recommendation at the May 21, 2007 Town Council Meeting. The consensus of the committee was to have Mr. Thomas Lenweaver present the recommendation to Council. Mrs. Hills asked the committee if they were prepared to make a recommendation on the stormwater issue. The committee members were in agreement that a recommendation regarding the stormwater issue may possibly be made at the next scheduled meeting, May 17, 2007 after the engineers of W. K. Dickson return to discuss this issue further.

With no further business before the committee, Mrs. Hills adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Submitted by:

Kelly Nash, Administrative Assistant