

State of North Carolina

County of Rutherford

Town of Spindale

April 4, 2011

The Spindale Board of Commissioners held a joint meeting with the Town of Rutherfordton in the Dining Room of the Spindale House. The following elected officials were present: Mayor Mickey Bland and Commissioners Tommy Hardin, Ed Searcy and Nancy Walker. Rutherfordton elected officials included Mayor Jimmy Dancy and Commissioners Bobby Jones, Terry Cobb, Stan Clements and Christy Bare. Staff present included Cameron McHargue, Town Manager; Karen Andrews, Rutherfordton Town Manager; Cathy Swafford, Town Clerk; Rus Scherer, Rutherfordton Finance Officer; David Arrowood and Gary Morgan, Public Works and Keith Ward, Rutherfordton Public Works Director.

Guests included Brian Tripp and Tim Lowder from W.K. Dickson & Co.

Mayor Bland called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and welcomed Rutherfordton's Town Council and guests to the meeting.

Mr. McHargue stated that last April the two Boards met to discuss the possibility of combining the respective wastewater systems. Ms. Andrews and Mr. McHargue met several times to come up with a list of questions, from both an engineering and managerial perspective, to be answered by a feasibility study.

Brian Tripp began the discussion by outlining W.K. Dickson's understanding of the proposed project. A site visit was made to each wastewater treatment plant, as well as meetings, to discuss the desired scope. The project will consist of an evaluation into the feasibility of combining the Rutherfordton and Spindale wastewater treatment and conveyance systems into a consolidated system. The overall goal of the study is to identify and examine all of the variables involved in the proposed consolidation and potential long-term economy of scale that will be beneficial to both towns and their respective communities.

Tim Lowder outlined the proposed scope of services. The study will include an evaluation of up to five forms of consolidation:

- Fully consolidated conveyance and treatment system with the Rutherfordton WWTP acting as the consolidated WWTP;
- Fully consolidated conveyance and treatment system with the Spindale WWTP acting as the consolidated WWTP;
- Fully consolidated conveyance and treatment system with both the Rutherfordton and Spindale WWTP remaining in operation;

- Partial consolidation with the respective Town's maintaining their own collection and conveyance systems with wastewater treatment being conducted under the most feasible option identified; and,
- Partial consolidation with the respective Town's maintaining only their collection systems with wastewater conveyance and wastewater treatment being conducted under the most feasible option identified.

Based upon the project understanding the following services will be performed in connection with the project:

1. Preliminary Data Acquisition – which covers day-to-day operations, any CIP plans, operational costs, annual budgets, NPDES permits, customer base and usage. Current user regulations and billing structures will also be included. Each treatment plant will be evaluated to determine the capability of the respective plant to accept wastewater flows from consolidation.

2. Technical System Evaluations – includes an evaluation of infiltration and inflow and potential impact on pump stations. W.K. Dickson will also prepare an engineering assessment of the respective WWTP's to serve as a regional WWTP.

3. Administrative / Management Evaluations – Dickson will conduct one workshop with each Town to identify and discuss concerns and issues. They will also meet with Rutherford County, Broad River Water Authority and the Towns to discuss options related to consolidation opportunities. They will also develop a proposed schedule for consolidation.

4. Final Report – Dickson will prepare a final report summarizing the system evaluations as well as conduct a public meeting to present the report and findings.

If the project were to go through all phases the total cost would be \$90,000.00. Both Boards were reticent with the pricing structure and questioned whether or not the fee could be reduced. Mr. Lowder assured the Boards that the feasibility study would go only as far as would be needed to determine what is and is not feasible based on the options available.

Both Boards chose to discuss the project at their respective regularly scheduled meetings and get back together as group on May 10, 2011 at 6:00 pm to hopefully make a joint decision.

R. Mickey Bland, Mayor

Cathy Swafford, Town Clerk