

The Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners met as the governing body of the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District at the Citizens Center, Third Floor, 115 West Main Street, Lincolnton, North Carolina, the regular place of meeting at 10:30 p.m. on January 8, 2001. The following were present:

Jerry W. Cochrane, Chairman
Beth H. Saine, Vice Chairman
Thomas R. Anderson
Larry S. Craig
John R. Gamble, Jr.

Jeff Taylor, County Attorney
Stan Kiser, County Manager

Also present were Jack Chandler, Director of Public Service, Brad Jewell, County Engineer, and Amy S. Long, Clerk to the Board.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cochrane called the January 8, 2001 meeting of the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District Board to order.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Craig to adopt the agenda putting Governor's Island at the top of the agenda, before approval of minutes.

Agenda

**EAST LINCOLN COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GOVERNING BODY
LINCOLN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

JANUARY 8, 2001

6:30 PM	Call to Order	
6:31 PM	Adoption of Agenda	
1.	6:32 PM	Approval of Minutes - December 18, 2000

2. 6:35 PM Governor's Island Information
3. 6:45 PM Wastewater Permit Application Procedure
4. 6:50 PM Grinder Pump Purchase Process
5. 6:55 PM Other Business

Adjourn

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND INFORMATION

Brad Jewell presented the following information concerning Governor's Island Wastewater Service.

Staff was requested to evaluate connecting the existing Governor's Island Wastewater System into the District's existing collection system on Burton Lane. Presently, Governor's Island is serviced by a private utility (Heater Utilities, Inc.) that owns and operates both the collection system and treatment facility.

The connection of the Governor's Island System into the District's was previously reviewed by the former County Engineer. It was determined that the residents' existing grinder pumps would not be capable of pumping into the District's Low Pressure Sewer System. The best alternative would be to construct a master pump station at the site of the existing treatment plant, and re-pump the wastewater into the District's low-pressure sewer system. In addition to a master pump station a three (3) inch force main would be required to convey the wastewater to Burton Lane. The force main crossing of the channel will be difficult and expensive. Staff has spoken to the local NCDOT Officials who are receptive of the idea of suspending the force main from the existing bridge structure. They have informed Staff that a permit application will need to be submitted for review by their structural engineers. The cost estimate provided assumes that a direction bore under the channel. The estimated cost to construct these improvements is \$200,000.

The estimated user fees for Governor's Island are \$1,100 per month. This is based upon an estimated flow of 6,000 per developed lot per month. There are current 31 developed lots, with nine lots remaining. At build out, the monthly user fees are estimated to be \$1,400. The Sewer District Tax for the existing homes is \$36,998 per year.

Commissioner Anderson asked Mr. Jewell how long he anticipates DOT to review the plans of suspending the force main from the existing bridge structure.

Mr. Jewell stated that it would probably be four or five months. He stated that while DOT is receptive to it, their structural engineers would have to do an analysis on the bridge.

Jeff Taylor, County Attorney, asked if acquisition of right of ways have been taken into effect. He stated that the district does not own those lines and does not have any right of way on the island. He stated that this would need to be factored in here also.

Chairman Cochrane stated that the way he feels the Board should proceed is to do some preliminary engineering studies and to have counsel look at who would be doing the paying of bills.

Commissioner Anderson asked the County Attorney for an interpretation of the existing agreement.

Chairman Cochrane deferred this item until next Monday to have a preliminary cost estimate.

Ron Watts, a resident of Governor's Island stated that he met with Doug Chapman, former County Engineer, because they have exactly the same pumps on Governor's Island as Lincoln County uses.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 18, 2000

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Saine, the Board voted unanimously to approve the December 18, 2000 minutes.

WASTEWATER PERMIT APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Jack Chandler presented the Board with the following.

Staff is requesting authorization from the Board to sign Wastewater Applications. These applications are submitted by Developers and require a signature from the District stating that capacity is available, and that the District shall assume ownership of the infrastructure after it is constructed in accordance with the approved plans. The County Manager is currently the only Staff member authorized to sign these applications. Staff is requesting that the County Engineer and Director of Public Service also be authorized to sign these applications. This change will result in a quicker turn around on permits. A similar request for authorization to sign water permits will be made to the Board of County Commissioners at the next regular meeting.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Craig, the Board voted unanimously to allow staff to sign Wastewater Applications.

GRINDER PUMP PURCHASE PROCESS

Brad Jewell, County Engineer, presented the Board with the following.

Modern Electric and Plumbing Supply has requested permission to be an authorized distributor of grinder pumps for the East Lincoln County Sewer District. Staff has reviewed the request and is seeking authorization to prepare and advertise a request for

proposals (RFP) to provide simplex grinder pumps for use within the East Lincoln County Sewer District.

The East Lincoln County Sewer District sole sourced all simplex grinder pumps through Barnes Pumps when the District was formed. The District purchases these pumps through a wholesale distributor in Charlotte, stores them, and sells the pumps to local authorized installers. The District trains the installers free. The District has also been providing any required service under the one-year warranty period. The District provides the grinder pumps at cost to the installers. No additional fees are collected to reimburse the District for administrative or warranty issue costs.

Modern Electric and Plumbing Supply is requesting permission to provide grinder pump systems directly to installers. In fairness to other pump Distributors, Staff is proposing to request proposals from other vendors to prevent sole sourcing of the equipment. This would eliminate the need for the County to sell grinder pumps, train installers, and provide the one-year warranty service. The existing staff freed up by this change would direct their efforts toward the larger pump stations. Customers would be offered a wider selection of systems and warranties. At this time, Staff is not aware if this will reduce the unit cost of the grinder pump system.

The RFP will list basic required features (required alarms, pressure, flow, etc.) of a simplex grinder pump system. In addition, the Distributor will be required to submit information on warranty services (i.e., after hours service, turn around time, etc.) and stock issues (location, minimum packages on hand, etc.). After the District reviews the submittal for conformity with the RFP, the pump be would be approved for use within the District. Staff anticipates have several approved pump systems available to the users. The RFP could remain open, allowing manufactures that miss the initial request to make a submittal at a latter date.

A MOTION by Commissioner Anderson that staff be allowed to prepare and issue an RFP to receive proposals for the provision of grinder pumps based upon the specifications staff provides and upon receipt of those proposals that they develop an approved vendor list for grinder pumps.

Jack Chandler stated that when the district was created there are people who prepaid for their grinder pump unit and connection fee. He stated that a decision will have to be made there as to whether to make one final purchase, offer them the same service that has been offered, or refund them the price of the pump. He stated that he thinks the number is less than 300.

AN AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION by Commissioner Anderson to have staff come back with a recommendation as to how to deal with the 300 outstanding obligations after they have an approved vendor list.

VOTE: Unanimously approved.

RECESS

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Craig, the Board voted unanimously to recess the meeting until January 15, 2001 at 6:30 PM

Amy S. Long, Clerk
Board of Commissioners

Jerry W. Cochrane, Chairman
Board of Commissioners