

MINUTES
EAST LINCOLN COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2000

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 6:30 p.m. on February 21, 2000. The following were present:

James A. Hallman, Chairman
Terry L. Brotherton, Vice Chairman
Beth H. Saine
W. J. Waters, Jr.
John R. Gamble, Jr.

Jeff Taylor, County Attorney
Stan Kiser, County Manager

Also present were Jack Chandler, Director of Public Service, Chris Henderson, Utility Maintenance Supervisor, and Amy S. Long, Clerk to the Board.

Call to Order: Chairman Hallman called the February 21, 2000 meeting of the East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District Board, which was a special called meeting for the purposes of setting a Public Hearing for March 20, 2000 at 5:45 PM for extending bonds from seven years to ten years, customer annexation, and grinder pump maintenance discussion.

Adoption of Agenda: **UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Gamble, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as presented.

AGENDA

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

FEBRUARY 21, 2000

6:30 PM Call to Order

	6:30 PM	Adoption of Agenda
1.	6:30 PM	Set Public Hearing for March 20, 2000 at 5:45 PM for Extending Bonds from 7 Years to 10 Years
2.	6:35 PM	Customer Annexation – Jack Chandler
3.	6:45 PM	Grinder Pump Maintenance Discussion – Chris Henderson
4.	6:55 PM	Other Business

Adjourn

Set Public Hearing for March 20, 2000 at 5:45 PM for Extending Bonds from 7 Years to 10 Years:

Stan Kiser, County Manager, stated that there has to be a public hearing to extend the bonds to be able to issue them in ten years instead of seven. He stated that the original vote was for seven years, and if they want to borrow anymore money they would have to go through more procedures and have another vote to issue the bonds.

UPON MOTION by Commissioner Gamble, the Board voted unanimously to set the Public Hearing for March 20, 2000 at 5:45 PM for extending bonds from 7 years to 10 years.

Customer Annexation: Jack Chandler stated that at the December 13, 1999 meeting, direction was given to him to begin the process of annexing the sewer customers that are located outside the sewer district. Mr. Harry Hawkins has done some of the legwork, making maps that show the properties. Mr. Chandler presented the Board with copies of the map for information only at this time, which will be taken up in the future.

Grinder Pump Maintenance Discussion : Commissioner Brotherton stated that this originated a few weeks ago, when a plumber from East Lincoln County approached him about the grinder pumps. This plumber said that the life of the grinder pumps could be extended considerably if they had some type of maintenance every six months. The description of maintenance was only cleaning out the tank around the pump. The plumber suggested that the County notify the owners of the grinder pumps that this would extend the life of them.

Jack Chandler stated that when the initial permits were issued by the State, one of the items that was referenced in those permits is a project summary. In this project summary, it stipulates that owners will be the homeowners, and will be responsible for maintenance of the grinder pump. It says that Lincoln County will hold training classes for plumbers and installers of these systems, and only the installers that have gone through those

training classes will be allowed to install these pumps. With each pump comes a one year manufacturers warranty. In the beginning, the pump distributor was not able to provide very quick response to the people who had trouble calls on the pump stations. Mr. Chandler stated that in trying to provide good customer service, the Sewer District started running the maintenance calls during the one year period. He stated that they found out that the installers were not interested in doing maintenance calls or trouble calls on the installations. He stated that the Sewer District has been going out trouble-shooting the stations. He stated that they do not have a tremendous amount of calls for this. Mr. Chandler stated that he and Chris Henderson have been trying to establish a fee schedule for going out and doing the trouble calls on the grinder pump stations, to be approved by the Board.

Chris Henderson reviewed the following suggested maintenance list.

EAST LINCOLN COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT BARNES ULTRAGRIND SIMPLEX UNIT SUGGESTED MAINTENANCE

1. DESCRIPTION

The Ultragrind Grinder Pump Station is designed to handle routine, domestic sewage. The basin collects all wastewater from the home or business. The solids in the sewage are then ground into a small size suitable for pumping as slurry. The grinder pump generates sufficient pressure to pump this slurry from the home or business to the wastewater plant. While the station is capable of accepting and pumping a wide range of materials, regulatory agencies advise that the following items should not be introduced into any sewer either directly or through a kitchen disposal:

- a. Glass
- b. Metal
- c. Diapers
- d. Socks, rags or cloth
- e. Plastic objects (e.g., toys, utensils, etc.)
- f. Sanitary napkins or tampons

In addition the following items should **NEVER** be introduced into any sewer:

- a. Explosives
- b. Flammable Material
- c. Lubricating oil and/or grease
- d. Strong chemicals
- e. Gasoline
- f. All paint products

2. SUGGESTED MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

The following are suggested maintenance practices that should be used on the grinder pump station to reduce replacement costs, save on electric bills, and a longer life span of the pump unit:

a. Three Month Maintenance

The homeowner or business should check the control panel for any emergency conditions such as high level alarms. If the control panel was purchased prior to July 1999 the homeowner or business should also check the yellow seal failure light for a possible seal failure. The Barnes pump has two seals to protect the electrical motor from being exposed to the sewage. If the yellow warning light is lit a seal has failed and qualified pump repair personnel should be consulted. It does not mean the pump is in any imminent danger of failure due to the second seal protecting the motor.

b. Six Month Maintenance

The homeowner or business should clean and degrease the grinder pump station to prevent build-up of grease and oils from washing clothes, cooking, dishes and cleaning. The following are the procedures to accomplish this task:

1. Remove the lid of the grinder basin (9/16" bolts and washers).
2. If the station is not running, fill with clean water until station starts (at approximately 20 inches of water). Allow to run until the station shuts off (at approximately 10 inches of water).
3. Turn off the station at the Control Panel (30-amp breaker).
4. Add approximately two cups of commercial grade degreaser to the basin.
5. Fill the basin to approximately 45 inches with clean water and wait 30 minutes to one hour for the degreaser to break down accumulated grease.
6. Turn off the Control panel (30-amp breaker). The high level alarm should activate and the station should run in automatic.
7. While the station is running, wash the sides of the basin and pump down with clean water under high pressure (do not subject the float switches to any high-pressure washing).

8. Replace the lid on the grinder basin and tighten bolts hand tight.
- c. Twelve Month Maintenance
 1. Clean and degrease station.
 2. Perform start-up procedures to check proper operation (**!!Caution!!** – the following procedures involve the testing of energized electrical connections).
 - a. Turn power of at Control Panel (30-amp breaker).
 - b. Record resistance readings of cable and pump motor at the Control Panel.
 - c. Record resistance between Control Panel Ground and pump.
 - d. Record incoming voltage at panel breaker (30-amp breaker).
 - e. Fill basin to a level above the discharge elbow.
 - f. Turn control panel breaker “on”. The high level alarm should activate.
 - g. As system pumps down, record amps and voltage under a load.
 - h. With power “on” refill the basin and note pump “on” – “off” levels. The high level alarm should activate at approximately 26 inches. The pump should start at approximately 20 inches. The pump should shut off at approximately 10 inches (see attached diagram for float location).

3. GRINDER STATION TRIVIA

The following are facts concerning the simplex grinder pump station:

- a. The Barnes Ultra Grind Grinder pump is a two horsepower, 220 volt, single phase pump capable of a discharge pressure of approximately 42 pounds per square inch.

- b. The cutters of the grinder pump are reversible for twice the life. All that is required if the cutter teeth are dulled is for the cutter ring to be turned upside down (this procedure should be done by a certified pump specialist).
- c. The Barnes Pumps Manufacture recommends that the station be started no more than 10 times per hour.
- d. A five-foot fiberglass basin holds approximately 100 gallons of sewage.
- e. A seven-foot fiberglass basin holds approximately 150 gallons of sewage.
- f. Prevent infiltration or direct flow of rain or run-off water into the pump basin to minimize pump cycling.
- g. The grinder pump cannot dispose of wastewater or provide alarm signal without electrical power. If electrical power service is interrupted, keep water usage to a minimum.

Commissioner Waters asked if Mr. Henderson had any idea what this would cost.

Mr. Henderson stated that local plumbers told him it would be around \$100 per year under a maintenance contract, but they were only willing to do the yearly maintenance.

Commissioner Waters stated that he would like staff to come to the Board with a proposal for doing this maintenance, since there does not seem to be anyone interested in doing it.

Commissioner Waters stated that he believes the information Mr. Henderson presented should be sent out as soon as possible.

Other Business: Commissioner Brotherton stated that the public perception is that once a tax is in place, it will never come down. He stated that from some of the numbers he has been seeing, the sewer tax will be reduced around 9 cents next year. He asked Mr. Kiser if this is correct.

Stan Kiser, County Manager, stated that he believes this number is correct.

Adjourn: **UPON MOTION** by Commissioner Waters, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the February 21, 2000 East Lincoln County Water and Sewer District meeting.