



# Orange Water and Sewer Authority

*A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.*

## Summary of the OWASA Board of Directors' Meeting on May 13, 2010

Please note: The summary below was prepared by OWASA staff and is not approved by the OWASA Board. Audio recordings of the OWASA Board's meetings and the Board's official minutes, when adopted, are available to citizens for review. Videotapes of OWASA Board meetings in the Chapel Hill Town Hall on the fourth Thursdays of the month are also available.

The OWASA Board of Directors:

- **Authorized publication of information on the proposed budget and rate increases which will be the subject of public hearings on May 27<sup>th</sup>.** The proposed 9.25% increase in monthly water and sewer rates would increase a residential bill for 5,000 gallons from \$74.92 to \$81.87. The primary reasons for the proposed rate increase are the need to renew and replace aging infrastructure, reduced connection fee revenue from new development due to the slow economy, and lower water sales. The proposed operating budget of \$18.8 million for FY 2011 reflects an overall 1.7% increase from FY 2010. In addition to jobs cut in the current FY 2010 budget, three additional position reductions are proposed for FY 2011.
- **Approved changes requested by the Town of Hillsborough and Orange County in the Orange County Water and Sewer Planning, Management and Boundary Agreement.** The changes do not involve OWASA or its service area.
- **Agreed that Board Member William Stott will chair the Board's Community Outreach Committee.**
- **Received a staff report on plans to implement new on-line services including access to a customer's billing, water use and transaction history; enhancing the on-line bill payment process to significantly reduce OWASA staff time needed for processing electronic payments; and the option for customers to place service orders, etc. electronically.** These enhancements are being developed by a software company under contract to OWASA, and they will be tested before OWASA implements them later this year.
- **Authorized OWASA to participate in the North Carolina Water Quality Association, a new group of public utilities that will combine resources to communicate and work with the State regarding regulatory matters involving wastewater treatment.** The Board discussed the need to expand the group's role in the future to include drinking water issues and collaborating with other water resource industry and professional organizations.
- **Appointed a Nominating Committee, which will make recommendations to the full Board regarding upcoming election of a new Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.**

**At the beginning of the meeting, new Board Member Amy Witsil took the oath of office.** She was recently appointed by the Chapel Hill Town Council.

For more information, please see the agenda materials on our website, [www.owasa.org](http://www.owasa.org). The next scheduled meeting of the OWASA Board will be on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.