



# 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's Meeting on January 27, 2011

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:

**Received a quarterly financial report which noted that in the first six months of the current budget year, net revenues were about \$3.4 million more than expected.**

Operating costs were 6% below budget, operating revenue (such as monthly billing receipts) was 10% above projections and bond debt payments were 7% less than expected because of savings on OWASA's variable-rate bonds. Stephen Winters, Director of Finance and Customer Service, said that if the favorable financial results are maintained throughout the rest of the fiscal year, the rate increase in the coming budget year may be less than previously projected under OWASA's 15-year financial model.

**Approved a reorganization of the Finance and Customer Service Department that will save about \$80,000 a year.** The reorganization eliminates two manager positions and reduces the total number of staff in the department by 2.5 full-time equivalents. The changes are part of OWASA's continuing work to improve efficiency and cut costs while delivering high quality and reliable services.

**Received a report from OWASA Board Chair Gordon Merklein on the status of local governments' consideration of the OWASA Board's request to clarify the County-wide Water and Sewer Management, Planning and Boundary Agreement regarding OWASA's access to and use of its Jordan Lake water allocation.** The Town of Hillsborough has expressed support for the clarification and Orange County has begun consideration of OWASA's request.

**Accepted an offer of \$300,000 to buy 14.9 acres of OWASA surplus real estate, a tract near Old Greensboro Highway and Jones Ferry Road.** The property is in the University Lake watershed and its use is limited by permanent conservation easement restrictions.

For more information, please see the agenda materials on our website, [www.owasa.org](http://www.owasa.org) in the "About OWASA" section.

The next scheduled business meeting of the OWASA Board will be on Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Community Room on the lower floor of the OWASA Administration Building, 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro. (The February 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Board meetings have been cancelled.)