

ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
FEBRUARY 23, 2017

The Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2017, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chamber at the Chapel Hill Town Hall, 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Chapel Hill.

Board Members present: John A. Young (Chair), Jeff Danner (Vice Chair), Yinka Ayankoya, Terri Buckner, David (Dave) Moreau, Robert Morgan and Ruchir Vora. Board Members absent: Barbara Foushee (Secretary) and Heather Payne.

OWASA staff present: Ed Kerwin, Mary Darr, Monica Dodson, Greg Feller, Stephanie Glasgow, Andrea Orbich, Kevin Ray, Todd Taylor, Stephen Winters, Robin Jacobs (Epting and Hackney) and Robert Epting (Epting and Hackney).

Others present: Daria Barazandeh; Jennie Baumann; Bill Camp; Rachel Conerly; Bill Garrity; Meg Holton, Water, Wastewater and Stormwater Manager and Ben Poulson, Associate Director of Energy Services at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Anna Johnson, Herald Sun; Will Rigby; Wendy Schwade, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services Lisa Stanffer; Corey Sturmer; Lauren Talley, Daily Tarheel; Claire Viadio; and Erin Wygant, Carolina Week.

There being a quorum present, Chair John Young called the meeting to order.

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MOTION ACTED UPON

1. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Orange Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors adopts the Resolution Honoring the Distinguished Service of Ms. Sallie Edwards to the Orange Water and Sewer Authority and the Carrboro-Chapel Hill Community. (Resolution so titled attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes. Motion by Terri Buckner, second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved.)
2. BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Orange Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors adopts the Resolution Addressed to the Chapel Hill, Carrboro, University of North Carolina Service Community on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of OWASA's Beginning Operation. (Resolution so titled attached hereto and made a part of these Minutes. Motion by Terri Buckner, second by Dave Moreau and unanimously approved.)
3. Terri Buckner made a motion to deny the petition to hold a public referendum on the question of OWASA's fluoride policy; second by Jeff Danner and unanimously approved.

4. Jeff Danner made a motion that the Board's consideration and response to the pending petition to initiate a new review of OWASA's current practice of fluoridating drinking water be held on March 9, 2017 instead of March 23, 2017; second by Ruchir Vora, and the motion passed with a vote of 6 to 1 with Robert Morgan opposed.

5. Dave Moreau made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Yinka Ayankoya and carried by a unanimous vote.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Conflict of Interest

John Young said any Board Member who knows of a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to any item on the agenda tonight is asked to disclose at this time; none were disclosed.

### Change to the Agenda

Without objection, the Board agreed to the following changes to tonight's agenda: agenda item 1 (12 Month Board Meeting Schedule) will follow agenda item 4 (Continued Discussion from the February 17, 2017 Special Work Session about the Consultants' Reports on the February 2, 2017 Fluoride Overfeed and the February 3, 2017 Water Main Break, including public comment), and the Closed Session on this Agenda will be to discuss two personnel matters, instead of one.

### Annual Chlorine Disinfection

Todd Taylor announced that the annual chlorine disinfection of drinking water will begin on March 1, 2017 and will continue through the end of month. Chlorine disinfection ensures a high level of disinfection in the community's network of water mains.

## PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

John Young asked for petitions and requests from the public, Board and staff; there were none.

### ITEM TWO: RESOLUTION HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF MS. SALLIE EDWARDS TO THE ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY AND THE CARRBORO-CHAPEL HILL COMMUNITY

The staff and Board expressed deep and sincere appreciation to Ms. Sallie Edwards for her distinguished service to OWASA.

John Young read aloud the resolution honoring the service of Sallie Edwards, OWASA's Accounting Technician II, who is retiring with more than 39 years of service.

Terri Buckner made a motion to approve the resolution; second by Robert Morgan and unanimously approved. Please see Motion 1 above.

The staff and Board also expressed deep and sincere appreciation to Kevin Ray, Procurement and Finance Manager, for his 28+ years of distinguished service to OWASA. Mr. Ray will retire on March 1, 2017.

ITEM THREE: RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY ADDRESSED TO THE CHAPEL HILL, CARRBORO, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SERVICE COMMUNITY ON THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OWASA'S BEGINNING OPERATION

Robert Epting provided a few remarks on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of OWASA's beginning operation and read aloud the resolution.

Terri Buckner made a motion to approve the resolution; second by Dave Moreau and unanimously approved. Please see Motion 2 above.

The Board agreed to reschedule the open houses originally planned for April 2017 to the fall of 2017.

ITEM FOUR: CONTINUED DISCUSSION FROM THE FEBRUARY 17, 2017 SPECIAL WORK SESSION ABOUT THE CONSULTANTS' REPORTS ON THE FEBRUARY 2, 2017 FLUORIDE OVERFEED AND THE FEBRUARY 3, 2017 WATER MAIN BREAK, INCLUDING PUBLIC COMMENT

John Young opened the floor for continued discussion on the February water emergency and thanked the community for their continued support. He noted the disruption caused strain to local businesses, and encouraged patronage of local restaurants.

Ed Kerwin provided a summary of the consultants' reports regarding the fluoride overfeed and water main break. He stated the primary cause of the fluoride overfeed was an unintentional operator key stroke that was corrected approximately 12 seconds later, but the pump did not respond to the corrected command. This led to a secondary cause in that the operator observed an abnormally high estimated fluoride, but did not take timely corrective action. Mr. Kerwin said that reason for the water main break the next day was improper installation of the water main too close to a stormwater structure directly beneath the main. The water main and stormwater facility were separately installed more than 44 years ago, before the formation of OWASA.

Bill Garrity said he recently learned that fluoride binds with lead, such as lead pipes, and could then leach lead into the drinking water. He said he knows lead is a neurotoxin and that there is no safe level of lead. Mr. Garrity asked the Board if they knew that fluoride binds with lead and what they would do about it.

Corey Sturmer expressed opposition to fluoridation and petitioned the Board to conduct a public referendum.

Clair Viadro expressed opposition to fluoridation.

Daria Barazandeh expressed opposition to fluoridation.

Mr. Young acknowledged the concerns and comments regarding adding fluoride to drinking water and stated that the Board has received via e-mail significant support to add a controlled amount of fluoride for both public health and social justice benefits. Mr. Young also stated that the Board thoroughly reviewed the addition of fluoride to drinking water within the past 4 years and unanimously agreed to continue the policy of fluoridation at controlled levels.

Mr. Young said that the Board has received a petition to initiate a new review of OWASA's practice of fluoridating drinking water and a petition that the Board hold a referendum on the question of fluoridation of drinking water; he asked the Board if they would like to respond tonight or in a future meeting.

Robert Morgan said he would not be in favor of a public referendum. He supported taking public comment and receiving staff information on fluoride and that he would prefer not deciding tonight.

Jeff Danner asked if the Board could conduct a referendum.

Robert Epting clarified that the Board has no authority to conduct a referendum.

Mr. Danner agreed to delay action on the petition to re-examine the practice of fluoridating drinking water.

Terri Buckner made a motion to deny the petition to hold a public referendum on the question of OWASA's fluoride policy; second by Jeff Danner and unanimously approved. Please see Motion 3 above.

Mr. Young proposed, and the Board agreed, that at the March 23, 2017 meeting, along with the Board's review of Action Plan related to the fluoride system, the Board will also review the question of whether to initiate a new review of the fluoride policy.

Ruchir Vora suggested that the cross-sectional graphic of the water main break be added to OWASA's website to better inform the public.

Terri Buckner clarified that the cost-benefit question she asked during the February 17, 2017 Special Work Session of the Board of Directors was regarding the decision to stop treating/producing water at the plant versus the financial impact on the community.

Mr. Young inquired about the storage tank levels prior to the water emergency event to see the context of their relative cycle and levels.

Jeff Danner suggested highlighting access to OC Alerts in encouraging our customers to update their records with cell phone numbers and asked if we give the reason behind requesting cell phone contact information when noted in newsletters, etc.

After discussion, the Board agreed that it would discuss at its March 23, 2017 meeting its proposed Action Plans addressing the failure of the Fluoride feed system and the separate water main break. The Board will discuss staff's proposed Action Plan to improve emergency communications on April 27, 2017.

ITEM ONE: 12 MONTH BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Ed Kerwin suggested that since all Board Members are scheduled to be present on March 9, 2017, that the Board might consider at that meeting the question of whether to initiate a new review of OWASA's fluoride policy.

Dave Moreau recommended that a review be completed, to see if any new changes have been recommended in fluoride policy since 2012, as noted in the literature concerning this issue.

The Board agreed that staff will review and provide an update on recent science regarding fluoridation of drinking water.

Jeff Danner made a motion that the Board's consideration and response to the pending petition to initiate a new review of OWASA's current practice of fluoridating drinking water be held on March 9, 2017 instead of March 23, 2017; second by Ruchir Vora and the motion passed with a vote of 6 to 1 with Robert Morgan opposed. Please see Motion 4 above.

Yinka Ayankoya suggested that due to busy agendas over the next few meetings, that the Appointment of the Nominating Committee scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> be noted as tentative; the Board agreed.

ITEM FIVE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WILL SUMMARIZE THE KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THE BOARD MEETING AND NOTE SIGNIFICANT ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION EXPECTED AT THE NEXT MEETING

Ed Kerwin summarized the meeting as follows:

- Staff will reschedule the open houses originally planned for April 2017 to the fall of 2017;
- Staff will add an item to the March 9, 2017, agenda regarding whether to review the fluoridation policy, and will inform stakeholders;
- Staff will provide answers by e-mail to Board Members' questions raised at the February 23, 2017 meeting related to the water emergency;

- Staff will include additional information on the website which documents that elevated levels of fluoride did not enter the public water supply system;
- Staff will note the Appointment of the Nominating Committee, scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup>, as tentative on the 12 Month Board Meeting Schedule; and
- The March 9, 2017 Work Session will include the following:
  - o Whether to review OWASA's current practice of fluoridating drinking water;
  - o Discuss the initial implementation plan for OWASA's Employee Diversity and Inclusion Program;
  - o Review Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 draft budget and rates;
  - o Set date for public hearings on the FY 2018 draft budget and rates; and
  - o Discussion of Board officer nomination and election process.

ITEM SIX: CLOSED SESSION

Without objection, the Board convened in a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing two personnel matters.

The Board returned to open session and opened the doors to the meeting.

Dave Moreau made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Yinka Ayankoya and unanimously approved. (See Motion No. 5 above.)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Orbich  
Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board

Attachments

**Resolution Honoring the Distinguished Service of  
Ms. Sallie Edwards to the Orange Water and Sewer Authority and  
the Carrboro-Chapel Hill Community**

**Whereas**, Ms. Sallie Edwards has served the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) and the people of the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community for 40 years, from June 1977 until her retirement on March 1, 2017; and

**Whereas**, Ms. Edwards served as an Accounting Technician II in OWASA's Department of Finance and Customer Service; and

**Whereas**, during Ms. Edwards tenure, OWASA received 16 annual awards from the Governmental Finance Officers' Association for Excellence in Financial Reporting; and

**Whereas**, Ms. Edwards' knowledge, insights, professionalism, diligence and strong commitment to doing the highest quality of work have been a crucial part of the OWASA Team's success in accounting and financial reporting and thereby in serving the overall community; and

**Whereas**, Ms. Edwards is a dedicated, hard-working public servant who is admired, loved and respected by all; and

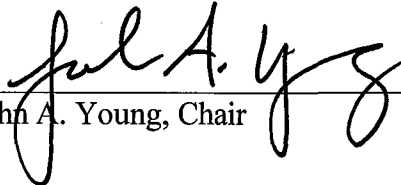
**Whereas**, Sallie's warmth, sense of humor and good cheer will be deeply missed;

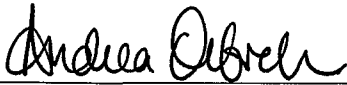
**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:**

That the Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) hereby honors the distinguished public service of Ms. Sallie Edwards to OWASA and the people of Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County; and the Board of Directors expresses its appreciation and best wishes to Ms. Edwards for success in all her future endeavors.

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2017.

ATTEST:

  
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John A. Young, Chair

  
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Andrea Orbich, Assistant-Secretary

**Resolution by the Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority  
to the Chapel Hill, Carrboro, University of North Carolina Service Community  
on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of OWASA's Beginning Operation**

**Whereas**, on June 6, 1975, the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) was incorporated by agreements among the University of North Carolina and the Towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro to consolidate, acquire and operate the water and sewer systems serving their communities; and

**Whereas**, on August 2, 1976, OWASA, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Towns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill entered into Agreements of Purchase and Sale in order to accomplish the consolidation, sale and transfer of those separate utilities to OWASA; and

**Whereas**, on February 16, 1977, the University and Towns sold and transferred their utilities to OWASA, and OWASA began to manage and operate these facilities and systems to serve the community; and

**Whereas**, OWASA has worked continuously for 40 years as a community owned and managed utility, governed according to the sale and purchase agreements, and pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 162A of the North Carolina General Statutes, all the while providing the highest quality public water distribution and wastewater collection and treatment services, and, since 2009, reclaimed water service; and

**Whereas**, citizens and residents of these communities, as well as the University of North Carolina, UNC Health Care and other entities, have been the beneficiaries, as well as essential community partners in this community owned, non-profit corporate enterprise, and the Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge their invaluable cooperation and assistance in accomplishing this public purpose, and in particular, their understanding the importance of conservation and stewardship of water as vital to the life of this community.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Orange Water and Sewer Authority:**

1. That the Board of Directors hereby formally expresses to every person and organization in the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community the Orange Water and Sewer Authority's deepest appreciation and gratitude for the community's support over the last 40 years.

2. That the Board of Directors hereby expresses its profound appreciation to all OWASA employees, present and past, who have served the community with exceptional skill, uncommon dedication, and with their full energies and talents, twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year; working together, they have been and will continue to be OWASA's most vital resources in service to this community.




Resolution by the Board of Directors of OWASA to the Chapel Hill, Carrboro, University of  
North Carolina Service Community on the 40th Anniversary of OWASA's Beginning  
Operation

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3. That this resolution shall be sent to the Carrboro Board of Aldermen, the Chapel Hill Town Council, the Orange County Board of Commissioners, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and published to the entire community by means deemed fitting to that end.

Adopted this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February 2017.

  
John A. Young, Chair

ATTEST:

  
Andrea Orbich, Assistant-Secretary