

IN THIS ISSUE ...

“Town Proposes Stormwater Utility and Fee 1

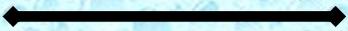
“Adoption Timeline for Proposed Stormwater Utility Fee2



NEWS & EVENTS ...

**Informational Meeting:
 Proposed Stormwater Utility**

7 to 9 p.m.
 Jan. 26, 2016
 Town Barn
 on the Town Hall Campus,
 101 E. Orange St.



This is a publication of the ...

**Town of Hillsborough
 Stormwater Management
 Program**

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**Our Stormwater Drains
 to the Eno River!**

Town Proposes Stormwater Utility and Fee

The Hillsborough Board of Commissioners has approved moving forward with an adoption process for a stormwater utility and associated fee.

Staff were directed to begin developing a plan for implementation when the board approved the current budget and financial plan for fiscal years 2015-18 in June. That month, Stormwater Program Manager Terry Hackett began analyzing information.



Spills like this one can contaminate stormwater runoff. Fortunately, this spill near Nash Street was contained and cleaned before any stormwater exposure. The Town of Hillsborough is required to implement programs to reduce potential stormwater runoff pollution like this.

He recently presented a draft *Stormwater Utility Fee Analysis & Report* to the board at its November workshop. During that meeting, the commissioners approved moving forward with the adoption process outlined on Page 2 of this newsletter. The proposed stormwater utility fee would be used to fund the town’s existing stormwater program, as well as new state requirements to reduce stormwater impacts to Falls Lake. Hillsborough is within a watershed that drains into the lake.

“These stormwater programs are unfunded mandates required by both federal and state law,” Hackett explains. “The state and federal government didn’t provide funding when they passed the rules, but the state did enable municipalities to create a stormwater utility.”

Stormwater Utility continued on Page 2

Proposed Stormwater Utility Rates	
Property Type	Annual Fee
Residential Properties	\$50
Tier 1 Non-residential Properties	\$500
(0 to 30,000 square feet impervious surface)	
Tier 2 Non-residential Properties	\$1,500
(30,001 to 90,000 square feet impervious surface)	
Tier 3 Non-residential Properties	\$2,500
(over 90,000 square feet impervious surface)	

Adoption Timeline for Proposed Stormwater Utility and Fee

December 2015

Finalize analysis; develop public outreach materials.

January 2016

Send notice to property owners; hold informational meeting on Jan. 26.

February 2016

Update town board on outreach results; draft stormwater utility ordinance.

March 2016

Conduct public hearing for stormwater utility.

April 2016

Vote on adoption of stormwater utility ordinance and fee schedule.

May 2016

Vote on interlocal agreement for Orange County to provide billing and collection of stormwater utility fee.

June 2016

Provide data to Orange County Tax Office to be sent out on tax bills due in January 2017.

Stormwater utilities are similar to other utilities, such as sewer and water. Money collected through a utility are fees, not taxes. Therefore, the proposed stormwater fee would apply to all properties, including tax-exempt properties such as schools, churches and government facilities. Fees collected through such a utility could be used only to fund stormwater-related expenses. Expenses include maintenance of town-owned stormwater infrastructure, street sweeping, water quality monitoring and review of new development plans.

“It is important to note that the primary purpose of the town’s stormwater program is to reduce pollution found in stormwater runoff,” Hackett states. Stormwater can become polluted as it flows across various surfaces. Pollu-

tants — such as oil, grease, pesticides, bacteria, sediment, excess nutrients and other chemicals — can mix with stormwater runoff. Polluted stormwater flows down storm drains and through pipes and ditches, where it is discharged — untreated — into local streams, riv-



Riverwalk entrance at Nash and Kollock Street

ers and lakes. Stormwater runoff pollution causes adverse impacts to aquatic ecosystems, poses human health risks, and can greatly increase the cost of treating drinking water.

In Hillsborough, stormwater runoff flows into the Eno River. The river is not only the source of the town’s drinking water, but it also is an important aquatic ecosystem and provides various recreational activities. It is the focal point of the Riverwalk greenway, a popular destination.

“Maintaining water quality within the Eno River is not just a regulatory requirement,” Hackett says. “It’s important to maintain water quality in the Eno so that our citizens and visitors can enjoy Riverwalk and all that Hillsborough has to offer. It’s important that we have the funds to protect such a valuable resource. I don’t think anyone can argue with that.”

Citizens are encouraged to attend an informational meeting at 7 p.m. Jan. 26 in the Town Barn to find out more about the proposed stormwater utility and to provide input.

Learn more at www.ci.hillsborough.nc.us/content/stormwater-management.

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Only Rain Down the Drain