

**Minutes  
Spruce Pine Town Council  
Monday, October 11, 2021**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on October 11, 2021. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members Rocky Buchanan, James Acuff, and Jackie Rensink. Staff in attendance included Darlene Butler, Billy Summerlin, Phillip Hise, Crystal Young, Libby Phillips, Shelley Buchanan and Michael Wood. Others attended, including Lloyd Hise and Corey Runyon.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Darla Harding called the regular meeting to order at 5:45 PM. Rocky Buchanan gave the invocation. Jackie Rensink led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Rocky Buchanan moved to approve the agenda. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Rocky Buchanan moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES**

**Public Works**

- Phillip Hise presented open and closed work orders for September. He explained the majority of the work orders have been for brush pickup. They have several open work orders. A new Public Works employee started today, so he hopes to get caught up on the pending work orders.
- He advised the council he has hired an operator that will be starting October 25<sup>th</sup>. He also has one more laborer position available and wants to hire someone as soon as possible. He is in need of additional applicants.
- The sewer project on Locust is almost complete with the exception of an issue with a crack that has to be repaired.
- The Avery County highway sewer line project is in use and working very well so far.

**Main Street**

- Libby Phillips presented the Main Street Director's Report for September, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- She expressed the interest of the merchants in town to participate in Trick or Treating this year. She sent out surveys and 60% of merchants wanted to participate and others said they would donate candy or funds for signage. She asked if the Council or Town Hall would have a presence for the event on Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> or if they just wanted to donate candy. Shelley Buchanan volunteered to have a table representing Town Hall and hand out candy.

**Parks & Rec**

- Michael Wood presented his report for Parks and Recreation, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- He advised that most of his staff have returned to school and he is now working with five part time employees.

**Police Department**

- Police Chief Bill Summerlin gave report on his department. He advised they are once again fully staffed with the hiring of Officer Mark Young.
- Chief Summerlin advised the Council they continue to be making a lot of drug arrests. He praised the Kelly Johnson and the K9 Officer for their efforts with this issue. Crystal Young added that last month the police department received \$800.00 in substance abuse tax, which comes directly from drug busts by our officers.
- He then asked the Council to reach out to the Mitchell County School Board concerning the school traffic issues on Harris Street and Harris Heights. The parents getting there early to pick up their children from school is causing major congestion and will likely cause an accident in time. Billy would like the schools to put a rule in place that no one is allowed on school property until all buses are loaded.

**Finance**

- Finance Officer Crystal Young presented first quarter financials. Said reports are incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- Crystal advised that 17.2% has been collected to date on property taxes at this time.

- She told the Council she is looking into short term CD's and Money Market accounts to try and earn some better interest on funds we don't need to use at this time. She doesn't want to tie the money up for longer than 24 months. The town is currently earning .01% on this money.
- Darlene shared with the Council that Crystal had passed her final CPA exam. They all congratulated her on a job well done.

#### Water & Sewer

- Russell Lankford was unable to attend the meeting. His water and sewer report from Veolia is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

#### ACTION AGENDA

Corey Runyon with the Lions Club attended the meeting to submit a Solicitation Permit Application for a fund raising event at the intersection on 19E and Hwy 226 on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. He shared the funds will stay in Mitchell County and will be used for eye exams and glasses for people that cannot afford them. They also sponsor visually impaired persons to go to specialized camps and give a Mitchell High School student a scholarship each year. Rocky Buchanan made a motion to approve the Solicitation Permit. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

Crystal Young presented a tax release notice for Betty McKinney at 255 Summit Avenue, based on the elderly exclusion. Rocky Buchanan made a motion to approve the tax release of \$137.19. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

Crystal shared the cost estimates that had come back for the retirement system time purchase. To date we have received back James Ramsey, Mark Presnell, and David Stafford in the amount of \$5,927.81. We are still awaiting statements for Michael Hollifield, Michael Briggs, Kelly Johnson, Phillip Hise, and Michael Wood. Rocky Buchanan made a motion to purchase the retirement system time for these three employees. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

Crystal updated the Council on some changes to the ARPA expense allocation for the Henredon Pump Station. The lowest bid came in at \$166,900 and a new roof is going to be required due to leakage, in the amount of \$10,000.00. James Acuff made a motion to accept these changes to the ARPA funds being used for the Henredon Pump Station. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT- none

#### MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS

- ✓ Council member Jackie Rensink made a motion to adopt the ordinance applying the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 160D-1119 (b) (1) and (2) to residential structures within the Town of Spruce Pine. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.
- ✓ The Council asked Darlene to get some information on possibly purchasing and leasing the land where Toe River Service Station used to be.

#### Town Manager


- ❖ Darlene updated the Council on the Spruce Pine fixed route, now named the Pine Line Shuttle. She and Chief Summerlin have met with Mitchell Co Transportation several times and surveyed local residents and businesses to determine where pick up and drop off areas are needed the most. The route is scheduled to begin November 1<sup>st</sup> and they look to have two bus stops in the downtown area.
- ❖ She is meeting with BJ Buchanan in the morning to discuss striping downtown and the Town Hall parking lot. She advised she spoke with Michael Vance and offered to stripe the area of the theatre parking lot that he owns. He said he would get back to her.
- ❖ Puerto Nuevo had their ribbon cutting ceremony today and opened their restaurant to the public.
- ❖ Darlene advised she has advertised our upcoming vacancy for Public Works Director with the NC Works program at Mayland Community College and it will run in the Mitchell New Journal through November. Phillip Hise has declared he will be retiring February 25, 2022.
- ❖ Darlene has contracted with Terminix to help with the rodent problem on Lower Street. They have placed traps and poison to help control this issue.
- ❖ The NCDOT is drawing up estimates for ADA compliant access to the walking bridge downtown.
- ❖ The Story Trail stations are all in place but are still awaiting the audio stations.
- ❖ Mitchell County is filing CDGB revitalization grant applications, which have been narrowed down to four applicants.

- ❖ The EDC has evaluated four potential industrial sites per county. If implemented both counties would share in the expenses and the benefits of the site.

ADJOURNMENT

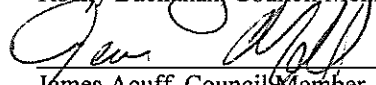
With no further discussion Jackie Rensink moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM.

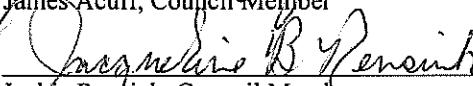
  
Shelley Buchanan, Town Clerk

  
Darla Harding, Mayor

Absent  
Larry McKinney, Mayor Pro Tem

  
Rocky Buchanan, Council Member

  
James Acuff, Council Member

  
Jackie Rensink, Council Member

## Spruce Pine Main Street Directors Report

**PR-** Scarecrow contest has begun and committee is discussing Halloween and Christmas ideas. I did survey the merchants, per council request and results are about 60/40% in favor of handing out candy. We are compiling a list of Spruce Pine itineraries to send in to NCMS for the Main-to-Main Trail. We started a social media weekly post campaign featuring specific ideas for each day of the week. Feedback is excellent. Abby and I are discussing expanding social media footprint to TicTok also. FOM at the BBQ festival went great. We raised \$770 toward the new sponsorship and almost \$400 of general merchandise sales.

**D&B-** We did receive historic renderings back for the TRAC façade and just waiting on them to pick which one they want to implement. They will also be doing a rear façade update as well as street front. Clean up day went great and a lot accomplished with new volunteers from the community. Wellborns owners have a complete façade and engineering designs for the interior and exterior of the building. They are working with Stan Cook and consulting with SHPO in Asheville and our office for historical accuracy. The train display cabinet is finished and all the trains are on display. I will search for a plaque and then we will make a public post about the donation/display. Bridge update is the same. Awaiting the new design for the ramp and for DOT to put out to bid. The Montessori mural has been damaged by the weather and was taken down and in storage until we can repair. Committee will be picking up the sidewalk discussion for planning next year,

**ERC-** The economic development workshop will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. **Board members are asked to participate in the workshop on Wednesday the 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 8:00 am.** Council, local officials, local Realtors, property owners NCMS and ARC will be asked to attend/participate (see attached agenda). The focus will be on vacant underused buildings and how we can move these into viable properties. We will also be having a SWOT analysis with the board and Sherry Adams on Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00. This will be a virtual meeting to prepare for the workshop next month. Blue Mountain has moved to their new building and Henline's already have a renter taking the vacated space. Peoples has sold the business and will close soon. Details to follow. Dellingers has announced their retirement sale this week and will begin closeout. Edward Jones will be moving out of Wylie building and into the old Profiles building. Dave has the space rented already. Door Dash is now available in Spruce Pine. The last DEAP reimbursement will be issued this month for Gustoso.

**Organization-** I will be sending out rsvp's to the swot, board potluck and the workshop. Please make every effort to attend these upcoming meetings for the health and growth of our organization. Abby started last month and is doing a great job with the social media and helping with events.

## **Town of Spruce Pine Board Meeting**

### **Report for Parks and Recreation Department**

**October 11, 2021 (828) 385-2179**

#### **General Park Maintenance**

- Mowing, weed eating, and weed removal
- Dragging baseball field
- Trash

#### **Brad Ragan Park**

- Repaired broken playground equipment
- Started daily leaf removal
- In contract with the cub scouts about their day camp in October

#### **Riverside Park**

- Pressured washed graffiti off over parking lot by walking bridge
- Painted over the graffiti in the rest rooms by waling bridge

#### **Shelter Reservations**

- 13 shelter reservations for the month of September , again this is just Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays

#### **Pool**

- Last day of the pool being opened to the public was September 5th
- Covered the swimming pool on September 11<sup>th</sup> and put all equipment for the pool back in storage till spring
- Pump/circulatory system still running till October due to warm weather
- Done chemical reads and added chemicals as needed

#### **Other business**

- Community service work program had 0 workers for the month of September
- Completed 10 work orders between parks and pool
- Met with Flo from the community garden about the compost bin update and they are waiting on their grant approval

- Had a conference call with a member from Rotary Club about the BBQ festival in October and what they would need from parks and rec.
- Meet with Sylvia Peterson at Riverside Park about the Walk to Remember event that was taken place in October
- Have a total of 5 park staff now, had one leave but was able to hire one that can be a fill in for the high school workers and for the one college worker I have
- Copy of the Fall/Winter work for parks and rec.
- Copy of the morning check list and the nightly check list



**Town of Spruce Pine Financials**  
**Ending September 30th, 2021**  
**1st Quarter**  
**FY 2021-2022**



<b>2021-2022 Budget Figures</b>				
		<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>Y-T-D September 30th,</u>	
		<u>Budget</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b>General Fund Revenue</b>				
Levied Taxes and Penalties		\$1,414,500	\$256,674	18.1%
Local Sales Tax		\$565,000	\$178,097	31.5%
Franchise Taxes		\$281,000	\$66,031	23.5%
Powell Bill		\$75,000	\$0	0.0%
Interest Earned		\$1,000	\$58	5.8%
Recreation Park Revenue		\$26,000	\$2,147	8.3%
Revolving Loan Repayments		\$39,122	\$11,008	28.1%
Misc Income		\$79,515	\$10,834	13.6%
Grants		\$24,110	\$0	0.0%
Fund Balance Appropriated		\$67,214	\$0	
<b>General Fund Revenue</b>		<b>\$2,572,461</b>	<b>\$525,566</b>	<b>20.4%</b>
<b>General Fund Expenditures</b>				
Governing Body		\$22,165	\$4,399	19.8%
Total Administration & Finance		\$232,585	\$86,381	37.1%
Cost of Elections		\$2,500	\$0	
Tax Collections Fees		\$4,600	\$1,189	25.8%
Economics		\$142,140	\$25,220	17.7%
Total Public Building & Facilities		\$209,509	\$21,217	10.1%
Fire Department		\$149,000	\$0	0.0%
Building Inspections		\$23,468	\$0	0.0%
Police Department		\$948,514	\$263,821	27.8%
Public Works		\$196,568	\$79,091	40.2%
Powell Bill		\$140,825	\$3,511	2.5%
Sanitation		\$79,913	\$12,888	16.1%
Parks & Recreation		\$293,557	\$62,057	21.1%
Library		\$103,577	\$32,963	31.8%
Trac Grant		\$5,000	\$5,000	100.0%
Cemetery		\$18,540	\$5,670	30.6%
Loan Disbursements		\$0	\$0	0.0%
Covid Relief Fund		\$0	\$0	
<b>Total General Fund Expenditures</b>		<b>\$2,572,461</b>	<b>\$603,406</b>	<b>23.5%</b>
<i>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over Expenditures</i>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$77,840</b>	



Town of Spruce Pine Financials  
Ending September 30th, 2021  
1st Quarter  
FY 2021-2022



	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>Y-T-D September 30th,</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<b><u>2021-2022 Budget Figures</u></b>			
<b><u>Water &amp; Sewer Fund</u></b>			
Charges for Water	\$1,421,096	\$310,543	22%
Charges for Sewer	\$998,771	\$209,812	21%
Water & Sewer Taps	\$3,000	\$3,500	117%
Water & Sewer Interest	\$250	\$0	0%
Misc Revenues	\$30,500	\$11,401	37%
Retained Earnings Appropriated	\$0	\$0	0%
<b>Water &amp; Sewer Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,453,617</b>	<b>\$535,256</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b><u>Water &amp; Sewer Expenditures</u></b>			
Water & Sewer Debt	\$61,020	\$0	0%
Water & Sewer Administration	\$1,146,330	\$234,017	20%
Water Expense	\$611,288	\$134,030	22%
Sewer Expense	\$489,096	\$196,885	40%
Contingency	\$145,883		
<b>Water &amp; Sewer Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,453,617</b>	<b>\$564,932</b>	<b>23%</b>
<i>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over Expenditures</i>	\$0	-\$29,676	

Town of Spruce Pine  
 Analysis of Current Year Tax Levy  
 09/30/21  
 excluding vehicle taxes

	Property Valuation	Town-wide Rate	Amount of Levy
Original levy:			
Real property	253,269,273	\$0.51	
Personal property	48,080,000		
Public service companies	16,271,553		
Penalties			
Exemptions	69,487,609		
	<u>248,133,217</u>		<u>1,265,320.74</u>
Discoveries:			
Current year taxes	7,610		
Prior year taxes			-
	<u>7,610</u>		<u>-</u>
Abatements			
Min Bill	31,345		
Total property valuation	<u>248,109,482</u>		
Net levy			<u>1,265,320.74</u>
Uncollected taxes at			<u>1,047,710.46</u>
Current year's taxes collected			<u>217,610.28</u>
Current levy collection percentage			<u>17.2%</u>

**§ 159-30. Investment of idle funds.**

(a) A local government or public authority may deposit at interest or invest all or part of the cash balance of any fund. The finance officer shall manage investments subject to whatever restrictions and directions the governing board may impose. The finance officer shall have the power to purchase, sell, and exchange securities on behalf of the governing board. The investment program shall be so managed that investments and deposits can be converted into cash when needed.

(b) Moneys may be deposited at interest in any bank, savings and loan association, or trust company in this State in the form of certificates of deposit or such other forms of time deposit as the Commission may approve. Investment deposits, including investment deposits of a mutual fund for local government investment established under subdivision (c)(8) of this section, shall be secured as provided in G.S. 159-31(b).

(b1) In addition to deposits authorized by subsection (b) of this section, the finance officer may deposit any portion of idle funds in accordance with all of the following conditions:

- (1) The funds are initially deposited through a bank or savings and loan association that is an official depository and that is selected by the finance officer.
- (2) The selected bank or savings and loan association arranges for the redeposit of funds in deposit accounts of the local government or public authority in one or more federally insured banks or savings and loan associations wherever located, provided that no funds shall be deposited in a bank or savings and loan association that at the time holds other deposits from the local government or public authority.
- (3) The full amount of principal and any accrued interest of each deposit account are covered by federal deposit insurance.
- (4) The selected bank or savings and loan association acts as custodian for the local government or public authority with respect to the deposit in the local government's or public authority's account.
- (5) On the same date that the local government or public authority funds are redeposited, the selected bank or savings and loan association receives an amount of federally insured deposits from customers of other financial institutions wherever located equal to or greater than the amount of the funds invested by the local government or public authority through the selected bank or savings and loan association.

(c) Moneys may be invested in the following classes of securities, and no others:

- (1) Obligations of the United States or obligations fully guaranteed both as to principal and interest by the United States.
- (2) Obligations of the Federal Financing Bank, the Federal Farm Credit Bank, the Bank for Cooperatives, the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank, the Federal Land Banks, the Federal Home Loan Banks, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Fannie Mae, the Government National Mortgage Association, the Federal Housing Administration, the Farmers Home Administration, the United States Postal Service.
- (3) Obligations of the State of North Carolina.
- (4) Bonds and notes of any North Carolina local government or public authority, subject to such restrictions as the secretary may impose.
- (5) Savings certificates issued by any savings and loan association organized under the laws of the State of North Carolina or by any federal savings and loan association having its principal office in North Carolina; provided that

any principal amount of such certificate in excess of the amount insured by the federal government or any agency thereof, or by a mutual deposit guaranty association authorized by the Commissioner of Banks of the Department of Commerce of the State of North Carolina, be fully collateralized.

- (6) Prime quality commercial paper bearing the highest rating of at least one nationally recognized rating service and not bearing a rating below the highest by any nationally recognized rating service which rates the particular obligation.
- (7) Bills of exchange or time drafts drawn on and accepted by a commercial bank and eligible for use as collateral by member banks in borrowing from a federal reserve bank, provided that the accepting bank or its holding company is either (i) incorporated in the State of North Carolina or (ii) has outstanding publicly held obligations bearing the highest rating of at least one nationally recognized rating service and not bearing a rating below the highest by any nationally recognized rating service which rates the particular obligations.
- (8) Participating shares in a mutual fund for local government investment; provided that the investments of the fund are limited to those qualifying for investment under this subsection (c) and that said fund is certified by the Local Government Commission. The Local Government Commission shall have the authority to issue rules and regulations concerning the establishment and qualifications of any mutual fund for local government investment.
- (9) A commingled investment pool established and administered by the State Treasurer pursuant to G.S. 147-69.3.
- (10) A commingled investment pool established by interlocal agreement by two or more units of local government pursuant to G.S. 160A-460 through G.S. 160A-464, if the investments of the pool are limited to those qualifying for investment under this subsection (c).
- (11) Evidences of ownership of, or fractional undivided interests in, future interest and principal payments on either direct obligations of the United States government or obligations the principal of and the interest on which are guaranteed by the United States, which obligations are held by a bank or trust company organized and existing under the laws of the United States or any state in the capacity of custodian.
- (12) Repurchase agreements with respect to either direct obligations of the United States or obligations the principal of and the interest on which are guaranteed by the United States if entered into with a broker or dealer, as defined by the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which is a dealer recognized as a primary dealer by a Federal Reserve Bank, or any commercial bank, trust company or national banking association, the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any successor thereof if:
  - a. Such obligations that are subject to such repurchase agreement are delivered (in physical or in book entry form) to the local government or public authority, or any financial institution serving either as trustee for the local government or public authority or as fiscal agent for the local government or public authority or are supported by a

safekeeping receipt issued by a depository satisfactory to the local government or public authority, provided that such repurchase agreement must provide that the value of the underlying obligations shall be maintained at a current market value, calculated at least daily, of not less than one hundred percent (100%) of the repurchase price, and, provided further, that the financial institution serving either as trustee or as fiscal agent for the local government or public authority holding the obligations subject to the repurchase agreement hereunder or the depository issuing the safekeeping receipt shall not be the provider of the repurchase agreement;

- b. A valid and perfected first security interest in the obligations which are the subject of such repurchase agreement has been granted to the local government or public authority or its assignee or book entry procedures, conforming, to the extent practicable, with federal regulations and satisfactory to the local government or public authority have been established for the benefit of the local government or public authority or its assignee;
  - c. Such securities are free and clear of any adverse third party claims; and
  - d. Such repurchase agreement is in a form satisfactory to the local government or public authority.
- (13) In connection with funds held by or on behalf of a local government or public authority, which funds are subject to the arbitrage and rebate provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, participating shares in tax-exempt mutual funds, to the extent such participation, in whole or in part, is not subject to such rebate provisions, and taxable mutual funds, to the extent such fund provides services in connection with the calculation of arbitrage rebate requirements under federal income tax law; provided, the investments of any such fund are limited to those bearing one of the two highest ratings of at least one nationally recognized rating service and not bearing a rating below one of the two highest ratings by any nationally recognized rating service which rates the particular fund.

(d) Investment securities may be bought, sold, and traded by private negotiation, and local governments and public authorities may pay all incidental costs thereof and all reasonable costs of administering the investment and deposit program. Securities and deposit certificates shall be in the custody of the finance officer who shall be responsible for their safekeeping and for keeping accurate investment accounts and records.

(e) Interest earned on deposits and investments shall be credited to the fund whose cash is deposited or invested. Cash of several funds may be combined for deposit or investment if not otherwise prohibited by law; and when such joint deposits or investments are made, interest earned shall be prorated and credited to the various funds on the basis of the amounts thereof invested, figured according to an average periodic balance or some other sound accounting principle. Interest earned on the deposit or investment of bond funds shall be deemed a part of the bond proceeds.

(f) Registered securities acquired for investment may be released from registration and transferred by signature of the finance officer.

(g) A local government, public authority, an entity eligible to participate in the Local Government Employee's Retirement System, or a local school administrative unit may make

contributions to a Local Government Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust established pursuant to G.S. 159-30.1.

(h) A unit of local government employing local law enforcement officers may make contributions to the Local Government Law Enforcement Special Separation Allowance Fund established in G.S. 147-69.5. (1957, c. 864, s. 1; 1967, c. 798, ss. 1, 2; 1969, c. 862; 1971, c. 780, s. 1; 1973, c. 474, ss. 24, 25; 1975, c. 481; 1977, c. 575; 1979, c. 717, s. 2; 1981, c. 445, ss. 1-3; 1983, c. 158, ss. 1, 2; 1987, c. 672, s. 1; 1989, c. 76, s. 31; c. 751, s. 7(46); 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 959, s. 77; c. 1007, s. 40; 1993, c. 553, s. 55; 2001-193, s. 16; 2001-487, s. 14(o); 2005-394, s. 2; 2007-384, ss. 4, 9; 2010-175, s. 1; 2013-305, s. 1.)



## NC Local Government and Public Authority Investment Challenges

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Recently, more than one NC local government finance officer has been presented with an annuity investment as an allowable investment option. Annuity investments are not expressly specified in NC § 159-30 ([https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter\\_159/GS\\_159-30.pdf](https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_159/GS_159-30.pdf)) as allowable investments for NC Local Governments or public authorities and are therefore not permitted.

The regular turnover that occurs in finance officer positions around the State means that some finance officers may not be aware of all the requirements and boundaries set by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (G.S. 159 Article 3 ([https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/ByArticle/Chapter\\_159/Article\\_3.pdf](https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/ByArticle/Chapter_159/Article_3.pdf))). The person holding the position of finance officer needs to know those requirements. NC § 159-30 spells out those requirements and boundaries as they apply to local government and public authority investments.

We understand that during times of declining interest rates, earnings for local governments take a heavy hit. A governing body may ask its finance officer to try and find ways to improve earnings. Investment brokers who work with NC local governments may offer various investments to as a way to do just that. Unfortunately, not all investment brokers are aware of the statutory requirements regarding what is an allowable investment for our local governments and public authorities. We encourage all finance officers to know the law regarding investment of their public funds and to work with brokers that only offer allowable investments as defined by NC § 159-30.

For questions about this post or other aspects of local government investing, please contact Becky Dzingeleski at [becky.dzingeleski@nctreasurer.com](mailto:becky.dzingeleski@nctreasurer.com) (<mailto:becky.dzingeleski@nctreasurer.com>) or (919) 814-4287 or Kathy Howell at [katherine.howell@nctreasurer.com](mailto:katherine.howell@nctreasurer.com) (<mailto:katherine.howell@nctreasurer.com>) or (919) 814-4216.



August/September, 2021 Monthly Report  
Spruce Pine Water/Waste Plants  
Operated by Veolia North America Water

Compliance: Both Plants and the wells ran in compliance for August and September.

Flows: The water plant produced 34.02 million gallons in August. That was an average of 1.13 million gallons per day. That month we used 740,000 gallons to backwash our filters. The waste plant received 19.22 million gallons in August. That was an average of receiving 620,000 gallons per day. Well 1 produced 3 million gallons

The water plant produced 34.32 million gallons in September. That was an average of 1.14 million gallons per day. That month we used 720,000 gallons to backwash our filters. The waste plant received 16.39 million gallons in September. That was an average receiving 547,000 gallons per day. Well one produced 2 million gallons.

Water: We averaged 4.3 NTU's on raw water turbidity during these two months. On the finished water turbidity we averaged .03 NTU's for both months. The federal limit is .3. We averaged a chlorine residual leaving our plant of 1.4 for both months. We caught 7 bacteriological samples in the distribution system each month. They were all good. As of today 10-7-21 we still have not managed to get an onsite visit from a well contractor to look at the #2 well. Henredon pump station has been bid and awarded to Kemp construction. I also got Carver roofing to price repairing/replacing that roof where it leaks. We don't want to put all the new stuff in a building that leaks. I will send that quote on to the town as soon as I get it. Roberts filter is coming October 13 to repair the sedimentation PLC at the water plant. The well analyzer has now been replaced from the lightning strike. That job should be able to be closed out now. We have installed a new bleach pump at the well which was a capital item. The outside disconnect at the well has to be replaced. The aluminum wires and many years have made all the connections badly corroded. It is kicking the wells off all the time. Gerald Glenn is putting in a new disconnect and copper wires to our breaker box inside. We are packing the river pumps quite often. Maybe next year we can look at replacing one of them. The shafts, bearings and packing glands are worn badly. The North Toe River flow meter here at the plant has been replaced. That was a capital job also.

Waste: We averaged 195 and 237 on influent BOD for these two months. The effluent BOD average was 1.9 and 1.4 respectively. That is a 99 percent removal rate. We averaged 308 and 400 on influent TSS for these two months. The effluent TSS average was 7.9 and 4.7 respectively. That is a removal rate of 99 percent. The new Sullins branch lift station pump and

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pump controls are in and running well. That was a capital job. We had a plant and pretreatment inspection with the NCDEQ. They didn't note any problems. We are working with the state and Darlene to finish up the BRP discharge permit soon. Our chlorine gas detector at the waste plant died. We had it repaired ASAP. We replaced the backup battery for our main auto dialer at the waste plant. It is very important to inform us of emergencies. We pulled and cleaned both Carters ridge pumps which were full of clothes. All the privacy screens are finished at lift stations.

Safety: We covered PPE and High Risk Management in August. We covered Asbestos awareness and Respiratory Protection in September. Veolia also had international safety week in September. That covered a lot of different safety information. These classes are online due to covid. We all were approved by a Dr. to wear our respirators for protection against gases for the next year.

Work orders: We completed 138 work orders throughout our system last month.

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