

**MINUTES  
TAYLORS FIRE & SEWER DISTRICT  
REGULAR BI-MONTHLY MEETING  
NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held at the District Office in the Board Room, 3335 Wade Hampton Blvd., Taylors, South Carolina at 4:30 pm.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Paul Bowen, Commission Chairman  
Mark A. J. Rea Jr., Commission Vice Chairman/Secretary - arrived at 4:49 pm  
Jeff Hannah, Commission Treasurer

**STAFF PRESENT**

Bobby Baker, Fire Chief	Robert Van Pelt, Deputy Chief
Shane Bagwell, Captain/Accreditation Manager	Matthew Mosley, Mechanic
Samantha Babb, Director of Sewer Services	Gary Cantrell, Operations Supervisor
Mike Townsend, Right-of-way Crew Leader	Chris Stamey, Cleaning Crew Leader
Stephanie Hackler, Senior Accounting & HR Specialist	

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

David Babb, Gary Bailey (Love Bailey CPA), Megan Balentine (Love Bailey CPA), Rita Bolt Barker (Wyche Attorneys at Law), Mike Barnes (Greenville County Council), Kaelyn Cashman (Greer Citizen), Sid Cates (Greenville County Council), Robert Cook, Jaime Daniel, Diane Jones, Paul Kingsman, Brad Love (Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd PA), Frank Rogers, Linda Rogers, Martha Rogers, Dave Wilson, Cheryl Wright, Simeon Wright

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bowen at 4:30 pm. Chairman Bowen stated that the media outlets who requested notification of this bi-monthly meeting were notified via door posting, email, website, Facebook, and Twitter.

Chairman Bowen amended the meeting's agenda to have the follow-up discussion of the septic tank policy under old business moved up to follow the FY19 Audit Report Presentation.

Chairman Bowen presented the minutes from the regularly scheduled bi-monthly meeting held on September 10, 2019 at 4:30 pm. He then made a motion to accept the September 10, 2019 minutes as presented. Treasurer Hannah seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Bowen recognized Mr. Gary Bailey to present the findings of the FY19 Financial Audit Report. Mr. Bailey recognized Ms. Megan Balentine, a CPA for Love Bailey, who assisted with the audit this year. Mr. Bailey then briefly reminded the audience and the Board what an audit is and is not. He stated that Love Bailey was hired as auditors to issue an opinion on the financial statements of the District's books and assess its financial risks. With that being said, Mr. Bailey stated that the District's financial policy controls with proper signature authority on checks and there are backups on credit cards and paid bills, as well as there were no journal entries; therefore, Love Bailey issued an unqualified or clean opinion and stated the District's books were materially correct. Mr. Bailey then gave a brief overview of the FY19 audit report. Lastly, Mr. Bailey asked if there were any questions. There were no questions. Chairman Bowen thanked Mr. Bailey for his assistance during

the audit. Treasurer Hannah made a motion to accept the FY19 Financial Audit Report as presented. Chairman Bowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Bowen gave the floor to Treasurer Hannah, Sewer Department Liaison, for the follow-up discussion of the septic tank policy. Treasurer Hannah welcomed everyone for coming. He stated he wanted to address the many questions that were raised at the last bi-monthly commission meeting on September 10, 2019. Treasurer Hannah then answered the questions on the attached TFSD Septic System FAQ handout and offered one of the following options to assist current septic tank residents: 1. Propose a change in policy to allow Taylors Fire and Sewer District to reimburse residents up to \$400 every three years for septic tank pumping services, which will be a 60% increase over current reimbursement rates; 2. Residents may request sewer services be installed in their area; 3. Residents on septic systems may request a transfer from the Taylors Fire and Sewer District jurisdiction to a nearby special purpose district that provides only fire services. Treasurer Hannah asked if anyone had any questions.

The floor was then opened for public comment on the follow-up discussion of the septic tank policy. Greenville County Councilman Sid Cates asked what changes did the Board request to the Legislative Delegation. Treasurer Hannah answered that the Board requested to change the law to have the ad valorem tax removed from residents on septic tank where sewer is more than 300 feet away and is not accessible. Mr. Simeon Wright asked if this would require the local delegation to do this. Mr. Wright stated it seemed like state law would have to change. Treasurer Hannah stated state law would have to change and deferred to Mr. Brad Love. Mr. Love explained that it is a state constitutional provision, so it not something the general assembly could change in the state law, they would have to initiate the process for doing a state constitutional amendment. Mr. Love added it is the constitution that states if you levy a tax, it has to be uniform across your district. Mr. Wright then asked about what MetroConnects did where they stopped taxing and went to consumption based and asked the Board if they are looking at doing a rate study to go to consumption based. Treasurer Hannah answered that possibly sometime down the road the District would look into a rate study for consumption. Mr. Wright then stated from what he understood MetroConnects was very happy with what they did because they no longer had oversight on their rates. Mr. Wright then asked if County Council had to approve Taylors Fire and Sewer District's ad valorem tax. The Board and Director Babb answered no. Mr. Love stated that every special purpose district is different. Mr. Love went on to explain that MetroConnects was created where the County has oversight and Taylors was created where the County does not have oversight. Mr. Wright asked does any other special purpose district have oversight from the County. Mr. Love stated that there is a limit over all the state law that every district has about how much it can raise its taxes a certain percentage of its increase and population that applies to Taylors. Mr. Wright then commented that Taylors could do what MetroConnects does and do a rate study and not charge the tax. Mr. Love stated that Taylors has the authority to do taxes and fees, so it would be whatever rate study the Board decides. Mr. Wright stated this is what everyone would want. Chairman Bowen stated that not everyone in MetroConnects district is happy. Mr. Wright explained that even with the proposed septic tank reimbursement increase up to \$400, in his case he would still be paying four times more in taxes than he would be getting back from the septic tank reimbursement. He went on to state that this was not fair, and he would like to see some type of action taken that is more concrete. Chairman Bowen stated that if the District does a rate study, the Board would have to fit it in the budget for the next fiscal year. Mr. Wright stated that once you get

the rate study through the budget, you will have a situation where you raise the rates where you can get enough money to get what you need to do.

Mr. David Babb asked Treasurer Hannah if there were challenges to MetroConnects' current set up to where even if you did not have sewer availability and were more than a mile away from MetroConnects, they ruled against the person and said they still benefited even though that individual did not have sewer access. Treasurer Hannah answered yes and explained that is what Mr. Love was attempting to explain when he discussed the indirect benefit of the sewer system. Mr. Wright commented that he was having a hard time understanding what benefit he was getting from the sewer system while paying for it and only getting \$250, which is less than what he is paying for. Mr. Love stated it's like the benefit you get from the school district even if you do not have children in school. Mr. Wright stated that he felt he was getting a benefit from the school district tax; however, he did not feel he got any benefit for someone else having sewer. Mr. Love explained that Taylors is not creating the argument for it, that is just what the Supreme Court has said that even if you are more than a mile away from sewer, you get an indirect benefit from the sewer because you chose to live in the District. So, Taylors is not creating the policy; it is the Supreme Court that has created the policy interpreting the state Constitution. Mr. Wright asked doesn't it seem logical or fair that people should pay based on the direct benefit they get. Mr. Love stated that it is not logical or fair to the Supreme Court and that their direct benefit is not important to the Supreme Court. Senior Account and HR Specialist Hackler stated she has the case law from the Supreme Court. Mr. Wright stated he has seen the law and understands what the District is saying, he just does not like it and stated that Taylors does have the ability to change. Mr. Wright then went on to ask if the Board has initiated a rate study. Treasurer Hannah answered that the rate study would have to be put in this year's budget. Mr. Wright asked when this year's budget begins. Treasurer Hannah answered July. Treasurer Hannah clarified the next fiscal year's budget. Mr. Wright then asked will the rate study be in next year's budget. Treasurer Hannah answered that he could not speak on that by himself. Mr. Wright commented that the Board has three people that can say what they think and make the decisions. Treasurer Hannah stated that was true. Mr. Wright then asked the Board what they think. Chairman Bowen answered that it would probably be in next year's budget. Greenville County Councilman Mike Barnes asked what would be the difference in the rate of consumption versus the current rate. Treasurer Hannah answered he had no idea; that is what the rate study would tell. Senior Accounting and HR Specialist Hackler stated that the Board knows MetroConnects' numbers; however, we have not done a rate study in Taylors. Fire Chief Baker commented that one thing you would have to consider when you wash your car, fill a swimming pool or hot tub, all of those numbers are coming off of your water meter and you are paying for it and it gets pricey. Mr. Wright stated we are not paying for it because we do not have the sewer; and it is the people that are actually using it that pay for it and that another option for those people would be to put in a separate meter for washing cars or irrigation.

Ms. Diane Jones asked how do you know if you are within 300 feet of the hooking up to the sewer, because she bought a new house in a new subdivision and had no clue that she had a septic tank. Treasurer Hannah asked Ms. Jones where she lived. Ms. Jones stated she lived in the Meadow Creek Subdivision. Treasurer Hannah asked Ms. Jones if her builder did not tell her she was hooked to a septic tank. Ms. Jones answered later on her builder told her she was on septic when they were determining where to place the tank.

Mr. Robert Cook then asked if Taylors sewer lines ran down Stallings Road past Reid School Road going north. Treasurer Hannah and Director Babb answered that sewer currently does not run in that direction. Mr. Cook stated that he is 375 feet off of Stallings and he is a long way from any sewer. Director Babb asked Mr. Cook what street he lived on. Mr. Cook stated that he lived at 210 Sammons Road.

Mr. Wright asked what is involved in requesting a transfer to a fire only district. Mr. Love stated that you would be changing two special purpose districts' boundaries, so it would be a County Council action to change boundaries of Taylors and the other involved special purpose district. Chairman Bowen asked if just one property owner could request a transfer to a fire only district, or would it take more than one property owner. Mr. Love answered that it would be an action of County Council, so it would be whatever County Council would be willing to do or not do. Mr. Love went on to explain that many times, this is requested by the two special purpose districts, so it would not be a local property owner request; it would be the two fire district's request, who then would send it to Greenville County Council, who would decide and change the line accordingly. Fire Chief Baker stated that there would be cost associated with that as well. Chairman Bowen then clarified his previous question. He then asked if just home in the subdivision could be moved into just a fire only district, or would the entire subdivision have to be moved. Mr. Love stated that it would have to be contiguous to the new district and the County could put in one parcel or a thousand parcels. Treasurer Hannah then asked how many people were in the Meadow Creek Subdivision and asked if all felt the same as the Meadow Creek residents present at the meeting. Mr. Wright answered that there were eighteen families and they probably felt the same. Mr. Wright went on to state that one question that was raised was that if there was a fire in the subdivision, who would respond, and which is closest. Fire Chief Baker stated that if they remained in Taylors, then Taylors Fire District would respond. He went on to explain his previous statement of associated costs with changing districts. Fire Chief Baker stated that currently Taylors is a Class 1 ISO rated Fire Department, which is the best you can be and there is not many of those in the country. Fire Chief Baker went on to state that Taylors has a station right around the corner of the Meadow Creek subdivision on St. Mark Road. Treasurer Hannah added that the entrance from the Meadow Creek subdivision is exactly one mile from Taylors' Fire Station #3. Fire Chief Baker then explained that if they went to Lake Cunningham's district, they are in a higher ISO rated class than Taylors and insurance rates would go up based on the fire department's classification. Treasurer Hannah interjected that Lake Cunningham's District is 2.8 miles away from the Meadow Creek Subdivision. Senior Accounting and HR Specialist Hackler stated that Taylors was tasked with giving all the solutions that were out there and wanted to make sure everyone was aware. Treasurer Hannah also commented that the district did not want to lose anyone. Fire Chief Baker stated that if Lake Cunningham gets a call in that area and they call Taylors, Taylors will come, which is called automatic mutual aid. Fire Chief Baker then briefly explained how automatic aid works.

Mr. Wright commented that moving forward with the rate study seemed like the best plan. Another audience member asked the Board about a work around plan to help offset costs for residents with septic tanks. Treasurer Hannah stated that currently, Taylors reimburses \$250 to have septic tanks pumped and that he is going to make a motion shortly to raise that to \$400. The audience member asked if that reimbursement would be given every three years. Treasurer Hannah stated that would be every three years. Mr. Wright stated that it would not be needed every three years. Director Babb then stated that DHEC recommends having your septic tank pumped at least every three years to keep it

in working order. Another audience member wanted to clarify whether or not Taylors would credit them \$400 every three years. Director Babb explained that one would have to have the tank pumped, bring in a receipt, and currently Taylors would reimburse \$250 regardless of the bill amount. Director Babb went on to explain that if the Board raises the reimbursement to \$400, the reimbursement would be equal to the bill amount not to exceed \$400. An audience member asked how much it cost to empty a septic tank. Director Babb stated that it depends on who you pick to pump, and that Taylors would not reimburse for drain field lines. Senior Accounting and HR Specialist Hackler stated that the current bills the district are seeing are averaging about \$350-360.

Treasurer Hannah stated that the Board is tasked to do for the betterment of the entire district instead of for just one area and the makeup of the septic tanks in Taylors is only 8%. So, there are 92% of the residents that are connected to sewer. Senior Accounting and HR Specialist Hackler clarified that the 8% are those who are on septic and are not within 300 feet of sewer and have no accessibility. Mr. Wright stated that it seemed like a rate study would show that the people that do have sewer will not be paying that much more if it is only 8% that do not have sewer and it would not be like MetroConnects where people were screaming. Treasurer Hannah stated that he did know that MetroConnects had a lot of indirect hits on some of the lower valued homes like the retired who are on sewer, who got hit pretty hard. Treasurer Hannah went on to state that MetroConnects did say that there was that adverse effect of the rate study. Senior Accounting and HR Specialist Hackler clarified MetroConnects stated that it was an unintended consequence of their rate study.

Mr. Babb asked if Treasurer Hannah talked to any rate study groups to find out what it takes to do a proper rate study. Treasurer Hannah stated he had talked to one rate study group in Columbia and that when the time came, it would take about a year to a year and two months to do it and that is not something that can be pulled out of a hat and be done. In addition, Treasurer Hannah was told that there is no way to have anything concrete within three months of doing a rate study. Treasurer Hannah stated that he did not want to do that and have the district in a bad position. He stated that he wanted to have something concrete. Director Babb also informed the audience that there are three water agencies that serve the Taylors district, so fee structures for water agencies are also not equal. Mr. Wright stated that the sewer would be different from the water based on what the district comes up with. Treasurer Hannah explained that the rate study would have to go through those three water agencies. Councilman Barnes asked what the cost of the rate study would be. Treasurer Hannah stated he had no idea and the rate study group he talked to said they would have to ride the district and come out and take a look at what it has and was told a price would not be given without coming out to the look. Councilman Barnes asked if that money would come directly out of Taylors Sewer. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea answered that it would come out of Taylors Sewer operating budget. Councilman Barnes asked it would balance out to where it would be feasible. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea stated that the district would have to find out and would like to do the rate study once the correct way and not waste tax payers' money by doing it incorrectly.

Another audience member asked if there was a sewer line running on Sunrise Drive. The Board and Director Babb answered no and stated that she has looked with the district's engineer of where Taylors could possibly provide sewer in that area, but the district has a current project going on, the Mill Hill Rehabilitation Project. Director Babb went on to state that until the Mill Hill Project is near completion, she cannot really put in to any other project, because it is very costly. Director Babb also stated that the district has had some problems off of Cherry Lane, so that is another issue; however,

the district has explored the possibility of putting sewer in this area but has not looked at anything in stone yet because there is about 20% of the Mill Hill Project left to complete before possibilities can be explored in more depth. Mr. Babb also stated that the district is waiting on another agency who is looking at putting another sewer line coming down behind Paris Mountain that will actually tap that area. Director Babb explained that Renewable Water Resources (ReWa) informed Taylors that they are in the process of conducting a North Enoree Master Plan which is in their next 10-year plan project that may serve residents in the area without accessibility to sewer. Director Babb then briefly introduced what information she had on ReWa's North Enoree Master Plan.

Another audience member asked where those over the age of 65 can go for a homestead exemption. Director Babb stated that they would need to go to Greenville County's Tax Collector Office.

Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea apologized for being late to the meeting after arriving at 4:49 pm.

Chairman Bowen asked if there were questions or comments. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea commented that he too lives in the district and that one of the things he worries about is any increases. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea went on to state that when any type of increase is passed, it is passed on to the Board as well, with the due diligence of thinking about everybody and attempting to make the best decisions for all of us. Chairman Bowen asked if there were anymore questions or comments. An audience member thanked the Board for starting the meeting with prayer. Deputy Chief Van Pelt then shared how MetroConnects' decision to go consumption based has affected his water bill living within MetroConnects' District. An audience member then asked if the Board passes the septic tank reimbursement increase from \$250 to \$400, does it take the rate study off of the table. Chairman Bowen answered no. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea stated that the Board would do that in addition to the reimbursement increase. Councilman Barnes then thanked the Board for working with the Meadow Creek residents. Mr. Babb asked if there is a law that says one cannot reimburse to get around the ad valorem tax. Mr. Love stated that would be circumventing the law and that could not be done and would be lying in the face of the law. An audience member thanked the Board for being open and listening to their concerns. Chairman Bowen thanked the audience for coming. There being no further questions or comments, Chairman Bowen closed the floor for public comment.

Treasurer Hannah made a motion to move the district's septic tank reimbursement policy from \$250 up to \$400 every three years for septic tank pumping. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Bowen recognized Director Babb for the Sewer Department Report. Director Babb announced she did not have an official written report; however, she reviewed the Permit Fees for the months of September and October 2019. Director Babb reviewed the Work Order and Service Request summaries from July 1, 2019 to the present date. Director Babb then briefed the Board on an email from the South Carolina House of Representatives, inviting the district to join members of the SC House of Representatives Law Enforcement/First Responders Caucus for an open forum discussion on November 14, 2019. Director Babb then informed the Board that the Sewer Department was contacted by another national magazine, Municipal Water and Sewer, for an article in an upcoming issue of their magazine and will be onsite November 14, 2019 for a photo shoot for the article. On October 24, 2019, Treasurer Hannah, Sewer Department Liaison, submitted the department's flow report to Mr. Graham Rich, ReWa's CEO. Director Babb then briefly explained that with the

submitted flow report, ReWa did not submit a response back to Taylors, but to Greenville County Council and Delegation members. One Delegate member submitted ReWa's response letter to Taylors and ReWa's response is false. Director Babb then informed the Board that she received an email from Mr. Joe Thompson at ReWa requesting a meeting with the department's consultants to discuss several points of the report and share ReWa observations. Director Babb stated that she also received an email from Paula Gucker at Greenville County, thanking her for requesting a meeting to discuss the district's concerns with the Comprehensive Plan and that they could meet November 14, 2019 at 1:00 pm at County Square. Lastly, Director Babb stated that she had been to numerous meetings and training during the previous months and asked if there were any questions. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea asked what time the meeting will be with Greenville County regarding the Comprehensive Plan on November 14, 2019. Director Babb answered that particular meeting will be held at 1:00 pm and she does not know any other details. County Councilman Cates asked who the other parties were that ReWa requested to be in attendance at the meeting they requested to discuss the Taylors flow report. Director Babb stated that ReWa wanted to meet with everyone in the report which consists of the engineers from Taylors, Caliber Engineering and Blue Heron Engineering, as well as TRI Environmental, Frazier Engineering and Brown and Caldwell. Councilman Cates then asked when and where this meeting was to take place. Director Babb stated that she has not heard anything yet as to the time or whereabouts of the requested meeting and held a brief discussion with Councilman Cates regarding the upcoming meeting with ReWa and the contents of ReWa's response to Taylors' flow report. Councilman Cates requested to be at this upcoming ReWa meeting. Director Babb then asked Councilman Cates to elaborate on the County Council meeting held regarding the Taylors Main Street development. Councilman Cates stated that the Comprehensive Main Street Plan has already been submitted and gone through the proper procedures and at least one member of the Main Street Community, one owner of the Mill, is not happy with the plan, so there will be another meeting on December 9, 2019 at the library. Director Babb stated that whatever is decided, it will affect Taylors. Councilman Cates stated that the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting's primary purpose is to try sway the concerns of one party and told Director Babb that she was more than welcome to attend.

Going back to brief discussion with Councilman Cates regarding the upcoming meeting with ReWa and the contents of ReWa's response to Taylors' flow report, Mrs. Rita Bolt Baker noted that although ReWa's response letter to Taylors' flow report does accuse Taylors of providing incorrect information, it does not in fact question the findings of the TRI Environmental study or question its validity.

With there being no further questions or concerns with the Sewer Department Report, Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea made a motion to accept the Sewer Department Report as written. Treasurer Hannah seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Bowen recognized Fire Chief Baker for the Fire Department Report. Fire Chief Baker presented the report as written and attached. He informed the Board on the Engine #82 accident. Then Fire Chief Baker reviewed the meetings attended during the previous months, as well as upcoming meetings/training. He recognized the years of service, resignations, and deployment for various personnel. Fire Chief Baker then briefed the Board on the new Battalion #81 vehicle equipment awaiting delivery. He announced that Captain/Accreditation Manager Shane Bagwell received the Fire Officer Designation from the Commission for Professional Credentialing through the center for Public Safety Excellence. Captain/Accreditation Manager Bagwell is one of 494 Fire Officer

Designees worldwide. Fire Chief Baker then brought the Board's attention to a quote for five additional active shooter vests and helmets to purchase so that each on duty personnel can be outfitted in the event of an active shooter threat response. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea made a motion to give the department permission to purchase the items indicated in the presentation for 5 additional active shooter vests and the appropriate number of helmets to accomplish tasks. Treasurer Hannah seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Fire Chief Baker then announced that all four quarterly fire inspection documents for 2019, as well as the annual equipment certification document had been submitted to the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulations. Lastly, Fire Chief Baker then summarized the Incident Response Reports for the months of September and October 2019, and the 2019 SC Fire Fatalities Report as of October 31, 2019. With there being no questions, Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea made a motion to accept the Fire Department Report as written. Chairman Bowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Bowen recognized Mrs. Jaime Daniel for the Financial Reports. Mrs. Daniel reviewed the Financial Reports as written and attached. She detailed the statement of net position, the statement of activities, general funds, and the cash flow statement. Mrs. Daniel asked if there were any questions. There were none. Treasurer Hannah made a motion to accept the Financial Reports as presented. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Under old business, the Board revisited the City of Greer dispatch service contract that the Department received from the City of Greer governing the continuous provision of fire dispatch service and the payment of fees for such services, with recommended changes from the District's attorney agreed upon by the City of Greer. Fire Chief Baker then requested the Board to sign the City of Greer dispatch service contract. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea made a motion to proceed ahead with the City of Greer dispatch service contract and designated Chairman Bowen to sign the contract on behalf of the district when it is prepared. Treasurer Hannah seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There was no new business to report.

Under the next item of business, a brief discussion was held on the Board of Commissioners' meeting schedule for calendar year 2020. The Board agreed to adjust their calendar to meet the second Tuesday of every other odd month with a date to be determined in June 2020 for a public hearing for the proposed 2021 budget. Treasurer Hannah made a motion to adjust the Board of Commissioners' calendar to the dates given for the 2020 calendar year. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Bowen opened the floor for public comment that was not on the agenda. There was no public comment.

Chairman Bowen made a motion to go into executive session for discussion of employment, compensation, promotion, demotion, or discipline and to receive legal advice where the legal advice relates to matters covered by the attorney-client privilege. Treasurer Hannah seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The Board entered executive session at 6:44 pm.



Treasurer Hannah made a motion to exit executive session. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The Board exited executive session at 8:34 pm. No action was taken during executive session.

Treasurer Hannah made a motion to allow those employees who directly report to the Commission Board to roll over additional vacation days that they are unable to use due to unforeseen circumstances. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Because Taylors Fire and Sewer District is in receipt of a letter drafted by ReWa stating Taylors Fire and Sewer District has provided incorrect information regarding shared challenges we all face as sewer providers, Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea made a motion to extend an offer to ReWa for Taylors to pay for its third party vendor to test ReWa's flow meters that are installed in the Taylors Sewer District service area. Vice Chairman/Secretary Rea further designated Treasurer Hannah as sewer liaison to negotiate the details of the offer. Chairman Bowen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

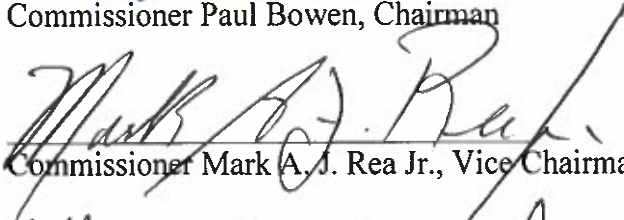
There being no further business, Chairman Bowen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Treasurer Hannah seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.



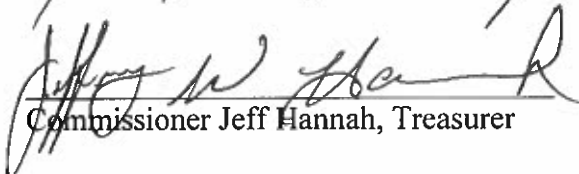
Commissioner Paul Bowen, Chairman



Date Minutes Approved



Commissioner Mark A. J. Rea Jr., Vice Chairman/Secretary



Commissioner Jeff Hannah, Treasurer



## TFSD Septic System FAQ

### How many parcels are on septic systems?

Taylor's has more than 11,400 parcels in its 15 square miles of service area.

- 9,022 of those parcels are connected directly to our sewer collection system.
- 1,172 of them are on septic systems and 1206 are vacant parcels. Of the 1,172 septic tank users within the district, 498 are within 300 ft of available sewer. Of the 1,206 vacant parcels, 937 parcels are within 300 ft of available sewer

### How are sewer services in TFSD funded?

TFSD's Sewer Services are funded through:

- A sewer ad valorem tax of 23.6 mills, with the following tax rates applied to assessed values of properties on the tax rolls in the county
  - 4% for primary residents
  - 6% for secondary residents
  - 6% for commercial properties
- A sewer base fee of \$120 per year has been included on tax bills to fund current system improvements.

### Are there any offsets available?

Yes, TFSD has offered the following tax offsets:

- Homestead exemption for taxpayers over the age of 65.
- Disabled Public Servant or any 100% disabled person based on numerous illnesses and diseases. To qualify, the person must apply through the Department of Revenue to certify the disability. The DOR will then notify the tax office that the party is exempt from taxes.
- Up to \$250 in septic system reimbursement every three years for residents in the district who have septic systems to cover septic tank pumping services.

### Why do septic tank owners pay these same ad valorem taxes?

Current state law prohibits the TFSD from excluding any citizens within its district from its ad valorem tax system. TFSD is willing to support a change in the law and has reached out to Greenville County delegation leadership to discuss such a change.

Is TFSD able to provide any additional assistance to septic tank owners now?

Yes, understanding the concerns of property owners with septic systems, the Board of Commissioners for TFSD offers the following options to assist these residents:

1. Propose change in policy to allow TFSD to reimburse residents up to \$400 every three years for septic tank pumping services – a 60% increase over current reimbursement rates.
2. Residents may request sewer services be installed in their area
3. Residents on septic systems may request a transfer from TFSD's jurisdiction to a nearby special purpose district that provides only fire services.

Would TFSD consider any changes to its funding/rate structure?

TFSD would have to conduct a rate study, which can take multiple months to complete, to evaluate whether any changes to its funding/rate structure are appropriate. Such a study is not included in this year's budget, but the Board of Commissioners may consider conducting a rate study in the future.