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Town Hall 247-4353

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Fire and Rescue 911

## **Proposed Town Water System**

Each of you received a water survey ballot. There were 2277 survey ballots mailed and 777 ballots were returned. There were 401 ballots marked yes and 376 ballots marked no. The remaining 1500 ballots that were mailed were not returned. We believe these ballots convey implicit approval for the Commissioners to do what they believe is best for the Town.

In light of these results, your Commissioners voted unanimously to continue with the water project. As soon as the State and Rural Development approve our design plans, bids will be advertised. This should occur within the very near future.

At this point, your Commissioners would like to express our appreciation to all of you who took the time to fill out and return your survey ballot to Town Hall. We would especially like to thank those who voted yes in support of your Commissioners in their endeavor to get control of your water system and thereby, bring to you, our citizens, the best water and water rate possible.

We would also like to thank those who took the time to write comments on your survey ballot. Each and every suggestion was reviewed to see if there were any suggestions that had not already been considered. We are happy to report that there were no new thoughts or suggestions that had not been thoroughly reviewed and discussed.

To make our municipal system financially viable, all residential units will be charged an availability fee of \$10.00 per month regardless of whether they are connected to our municipal water. An equivalent will be charged to businesses. This will be in addition to fees charged by Carolina Water Service to its customers who remain connected to its system. This municipal availability fee will cover the cost of repaying the water system loan, installation and maintenance of municipal fire hydrants, and water loss during training of firemen.

Carolina Water Service controls the current location of fire hydrants in Town and they can do what they wish with them. In fact, they have removed two hydrants without consent of the Town. One point in determining homeowners fire insurance rates is the distance of residences from fire hydrants. Municipal control over location of hydrants will remove some of the current uncertainties and we trust will promote low fire insurance rates.

Again, our sincere thanks to all of you.