

## LOCAL NEWS

# Grover faces water problem

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From pricey pump upgrades to a shut-off valve to what seems like a never-ending drought, Grover joins the ranks of municipalities with water woes.

Mayor Robert Sides said at Monday night's Grover Town Council meeting that the pricing options for new pumps and upgrades to the Watterson Road Pump Station are getting very expensive.

"It's up to about \$34,000 to upgrade that system and that's not including a new generator at this point," he said. "We did get a quote for another submergeable pump basically like the one that was in there. But we'll take a lot more caution before purchasing another one."

The old pump, purchased about two years ago, was problematic before it was first submerged. Maintenance to the pump has proved futile.

"We're mandated by the state to run two pumps and we've been down for a while so we're going to have to do something," Sides said. "We may just need to go back to a submergeable pump again and not spend that much money because we don't know what may happen down the road that we're going to need that kind of money."

Grover's Water/Sewer Engineer Mike Church agreed. "When we first looked at this, one pump would be about the cost of this submergeable pump, so we thought it might be a good time to upgrade," Church said. The price quotes and possible costs started piling up. Grover would need to hire an outside engineer. The engineer advised them that they would have to put both pumps into the station at one time, they couldn't put one in now and wait to put the other in, like they had hoped would lessen the costs.

After all of the figures and plans were in, Church said, "we didn't have this kind of

money in the budget and I wouldn't recommend it."

Mayor Pro-tem Adam Greene had asked Church if there was anything else they needed more than the pump upgrade from the Water/Sewer budget. Church originally said no. But about a week later, "Kings Mountain told us we had to close our blow-off valve," he said. "Kings Mountain has always furnished us water and given us enough chlorine." Years ago they put in a valve to regulate the water and treatment.

"They have to furnish us 2/10 of one part per million at the end of the line, which is our service line. They haven't really been doing that now since they've closed that thing (valve) and the drought," he said.

Church has been feeding chlorine to the elevated tank every other day. "We've been getting by with that but that's not the best way to do it," he said.

The City of Kings Mountain is a distributor and the Town of Grover is a reseller, Sides said. "Once it hits our side of the meter then it's up to us. But what Mike and I talked about is they're not giving us what we need even to the meter. So now we're having to correct that problem on our side." They decided to have a talk with the city of Kings Mountain to seek a resolution.

The council agreed to authorize Sides to purchase a pump costing no more than \$8,938.73 for the Watterson Road Pump Station before the price increases any further.

"We got a letter from Gov. Easley. We are classified as a D3 (under extreme drought conditions). They are asking us as a municipality to begin an enforcement of water usage," Sides said. The town does not currently have a usage plan in place for times of water shortage. The mayor said he will find out more information and once a plan is formed, letters may be sent out to citizens.

# Grover plans growth

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Crippled from the loss of textile mills, the Town of Grover is making strides to walk again.

Mayor Robert Sides announced at the Monday night Town Council meeting that he met with County Manager David Dear in regards to economic development and growth in Grover.

"We talked about the development opportunity for us. We discussed Minette Mills. We discussed the new power plant that is coming in and for our opportunities to extend sewer lines and so forth outside of town when the opportunity came," he said.

Cleveland County is looking for developmental properties, approximately 10 acres, for light industrial or commercial use to put as listings on their website, along with property owners and asking sale prices. Sides said that the property doesn't necessarily have to be inside the town, but just within the town's grasp, in hopes of offering utilities to new customers.

Sides said Dear told him that the new Southern Power company coming off Battleground Road should attract more industry to the region. There were questions at the last town meeting about whether or not they could supply water to the future power plant. Sides was told that the plant would require raw water, not treated water, which is why Kings Mountain would be the supplier. Grover may be able to provide the company with treated water in the future.

"At some point they are going to need 20 million gallons (of water) a day. So they're going to have to install a 24-inch water line from Moss Lake to the plant," Sides said.

Dear connected Sides with Isothermal Planning and Development, which informed him of some grant monies available for economic development and expansions of the town's sewer line.

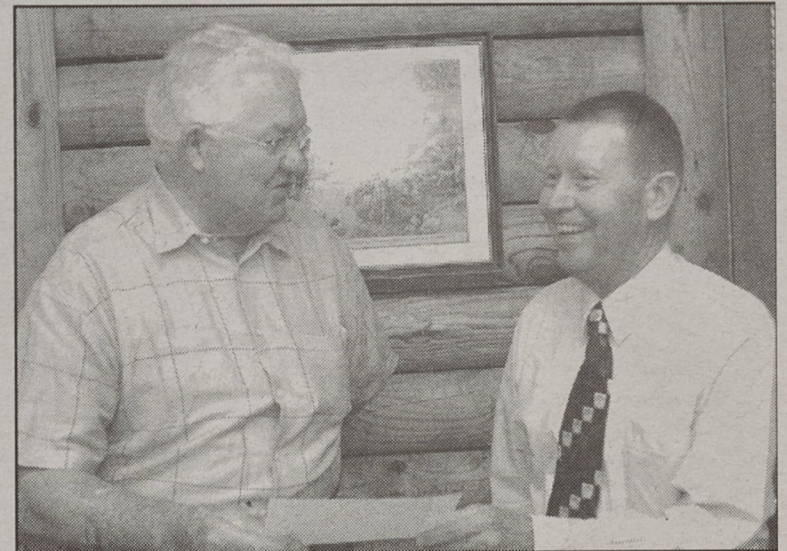
Grover will be sponsoring and hosting the next CCAGO (Cleveland County Association of Government Officials) meeting for government officials across the county on September 20. "That will be the first CCAGO meeting that Grover has ever sponsored. All of the county officials will come

down," he said. "We hope to make a smash hit for us. I think they'll probably see some things they haven't seen in the past. We'll make an impression." Sides urged all of the councilmen to attend.

The Town is also planning a Fall Festival to be held on November 3. The council approved a quote to install the much anticipated fence at the Grover Cemetery. Fund raising for the fence has continued throughout the community for years and now, those dollars are

helping to bring the plan to fruition. Sides said that the price quote for the entire fence, gates and installation is \$33,689. The price quote to make the gates electronic, which will open and close at a time the town designates, is \$15,429, for a grand total of \$49,118.

The town has raised \$28,000 and has \$10,000 set aside for the project, leaving about \$10,000 needed. "We talked to the bank. We can draw some interest from the CD at no penalty," Sides said.



Ronnie Franks, right, accepts a \$12,000 check from Larry Hamrick Sr. for winning the fourth annual Kings Mountain Historical Museum reverse raffle Saturday night at the American Legion. Almost 300 people attended the event. Door prizes were given and every 10th person won a prize. The approximately \$20,000 raised at the event will go toward further preservation of the Cornwell House and Barber Cabin, and the restoration of the 1925 White truck that was owned by Ware Feed Mill.

## September Diamond Sale

### Circle Diamond Pendant 14k

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1/4 ct. Sale \$149  
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1 ct. Sale \$554

### Journey Pendant 14k

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1 ct. Sale \$799

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