

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.  
2200 Camp Branch Road  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
October 29, 2023

**Subject: Email Dialog with Rob Hites - Did Hites request a Grant from the state for the Sewer Upgrade?**

There is currently a pissing contest between NC Legislator Mark Pless and Waynesville Town Manager Rob Hites. At a Team Waynesville Rally on the Historic Courthouse steps on 10/21/2023 at 6:00 pm (right after the Apple Festival), Pless indicated multiple county's received infrastructure money from the state simply because they asked for it. Pless indicated no one from the Town of Waynesville ever asked. The mountaineer is carrying the water for **Hites**, saying he did. So, let's get to the bottom of this, with a simple Request for Public Information. Here we go...

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Subject: Request for Public Information - Distressed Grant Application for Sewer Plant. #1

Date: Thu, 26 Oct 2023 01:56:04 -0400

From: Monroe Miller

To: Olga Grooman <ogrooman@waynesvillenc.gov>, Candace Poolton <cpoolton@waynesvillenc.onmicrosoft.com>

CC: Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Becky Johnson <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>, Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>, Martha Sharpe Bradley <martha@sosharpe.com>, Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>

Ms. Grooman and Ms. Poolton,

You both are receiving this Request for Public Information, as neither of you are on the Pink Slip List (re: <https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubTP/T230902.pdf>).

In an article written by Becky Johnson in the mountaineer, [https://www.themountaineer.com/news/grant-mix-up-deals-another-blow-to-waynesville-sewer-plant/article\\_c016cdcc-1233-11ed-87f6-9fa6d3b04f0b.html](https://www.themountaineer.com/news/grant-mix-up-deals-another-blow-to-waynesville-sewer-plant/article_c016cdcc-1233-11ed-87f6-9fa6d3b04f0b.html), she said, in part

"...The latest blow was a rejected state grant meant to offset rising construction costs. The town's grant application was hampered by a mix-up at the state level over Waynesville's economic designation. "They said we were not sufficiently distressed," Town Manager Rob Hites. said. "We were surprised to find that out." ..."

Please provide the original grant application to the state by Rob Hites, indicating who at the state it was sent to and when, along with the rejection notification.

Please acknowledge this Request for Public Information.

Thank you,

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - Distressed Grant Application for Sewer Plant. #2  
Date: Thu, 26 Oct 2023 19:36:52 -0400  
From: Monroe Miller  
To: Olga Grooman <ogrooman@waynesvillenc.gov>, Candace Poolton <cpoolton@waynesvillenc.onmicrosoft.com>  
CC: Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Becky Johnson <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>, Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>, Martha Sharpe Bradley <martha@sosharpe.com>, Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>

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Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - Distressed Grant Application for Sewer Plant. #2  
Date: Thu, 26 Oct 2023 23:44:54 +0000  
From: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>  
To: Monroe Miller, Olga Grooman <ogrooman@waynesvillenc.gov>, Candace Poolton <cpoolton@waynesvillenc.gov>  
CC: Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Becky Johnson <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>, Martha Sharpe Bradley <martha@sosharpe.com>, Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>

Your request has been noted!

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Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - Distressed Grant Application for Sewer Plant. #2  
Date: Thu, 26 Oct 2023 19:50:03 -0400  
From: Monroe Miller  
To: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>, Olga Grooman <ogrooman@waynesvillenc.gov>, Candace Poolton <cpoolton@waynesvillenc.gov>  
CC: Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Becky Johnson <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>, Martha Sharpe Bradley <martha@sosharpe.com>, Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>

Thank you.

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Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - Distressed Grant Application for Sewer Plant. #2  
Date: Fri, 27 Oct 2023 12:56:39 -0400  
From: Monroe Miller  
To: Becky Johnson <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>  
CC: Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Martha Sharpe Bradley <martha@sosharpe.com>, Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>, Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>, Olga Grooman <ogrooman@waynesvillenc.gov>, Candace Poolton <cpoolton@waynesvillenc.onmicrosoft.com>, Mark Pless <Mark.Pless@ncleg.gov>

So Ms. Johnson,

Remember this conversation you had with Janet Presson the other day?

> On Oct 23, 2023, at 9:29 AM, Becky Johnson <bjohnson@themountaineer.com> wrote:

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> Hey Janet,

> Mark has said this before, and the town claims it isn't true. So I don't know what to do, because I encountered this previously and both said different things.

Well, here we are...

Hites has the perfect opportunity to get all this information out by responding to this Request for Public Information, and he appears to be stalling. How do you think that makes him look right now?

I'll tell you. Not so good.

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

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Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - Distressed Grant Application for Sewer Plant. #3

Date: Fri, 27 Oct 2023 20:59:08 -0400

From: Monroe Miller

To: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>, Olga Grooman <ogrooman@waynesvillenc.gov>, Candace Poolton <cpoolton@waynesvillenc.onmicrosoft.com>

CC: Vicki Hyatt <vhyatt@themountaineer.com>, Martha Sharpe Bradley <martha@sosharpe.com>, Jesse Fowler <jfowler@waynesvillenc.gov>, Mark Pless <Mark.Pless@ncleg.gov>, Becky Johnson <bjohnson@themountaineer.com>

Mr. Hites,

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Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

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It would appear **Rob Hites** has dove into a bunker, along with **Elizabeth Teague, Martha Sharpe Bradley, Gary Caldwell, Jon Feichter, Julia Freeman, Anthony Sutton and Chuck Dickson.**