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# TOWNS COUNTY CIVIC ASSOCIATION (TCCA)



*“Addressing the issues and concerns affecting the citizens of Towns County and its environs.”*

Newsletter Volume 2/ Issue 3 Late Summer Early Fall Edition 2023

### **Mission Statement >>>**

The TOWNS COUNTY CIVIC ASSOCIATION is a non-partisan/non-political association supporting the community since 2004. Our mission is to provide a platform for Individuals, Families, Businesses, Organizations, Neighborhood Associations, City and County Governments to address issues and concerns which affect the management, planning, and development of the County and its environs. Our objective is to share the concerns expressed by the TCCA, to ensure transparency and accountability of both Cities and County government officials as well as State appointed authorities and utility providers, and to fully cooperate with those authorities in the best interest of Towns County.

### **Some of What Your TCCA Is Doing:**

- ❖ *Addressing the spreading of invasive plants in Lake Chatuge, especially in the area around Macedonia Baptist Church.*
- ❖ *Assessing the pros and cons of rapid growth in and around Highway, 76 especially in the Hiawassee area, and what impact it might have on traffic and housing needs.*

### **Message from the TCCA Board**

Over the last several weeks and months, the TCCA has watched, with great interest and empathy, the citizens of Towns County expressing their feelings about the issue of the “dragon” in Hiawassee. Now, concerns from many of the citizens of Hiawassee are focused on the proposed housing plan for downtown Hiawassee. The concerns of the citizenry of Hiawassee seem to be primarily about the type of tenants and the expected increase in traffic along Highway 76 through downtown Hiawassee. Both legitimate concerns.

The TCCA will always play a role in keeping our county environment as pristine as possible even though growth is inevitable. We will continue to do so by working with our administrators, both county and municipalities, to make sure they keep the well-being of our environment in mind in their decision-making. Although it has been said the TCCA is pushing zoning to manage growth, we are still evaluating whether this is the best means to manage growth as there are other ways as well. Using ordinances, and state mandated acts such as the Mountain Protection Act are also means in which growth can be managed if they are properly enforced and followed. That said, the TCCA will support any means in which our elected officials believe is the best way to ensure Towns County and the Lake Chatuge region continues to be the beautiful place where we all live, work and play.

### **MESSAGE FROM ONE OF OUR REGION LEADERS**



**Ms. Callie Moore, Western Region Program Coordinator for MountainTrue:** *For the last two summers, a noxious weed has been painfully apparent on the south side of Lake Chatuge in and around the Macedonia area. Parrot feather is native to South America, Australia & New Zealand and is still actively promoted and sold for ponds and aquariums. It has been accidentally introduced to waterways all over the US from these sources. It is transferred to new lakes on boats and other watercraft. Flourishing in warm water conditions, it grows rapidly in late spring and summer, creating huge mats of rooted vegetation that can cause recreational and navigational issues. Attempting to control parrot feather by manual or mechanical means tends to spread the plants further and should only be conducted in small,*

*contained water bodies, which as we all know, Lake Chatuge is not. Although there is research being done on biological control methods, at this time, the only real option for control is targeted applications of EPA-approved aquatic herbicides by licensed applicators.*

*TVA only manages aquatic plants in “developed public-access areas like boat ramps, swim beaches, and courtesy piers on its reservoirs on an as-needed basis when recreational use and/or access become seriously hindered.” Since the infestation in Lake Chatuge doesn’t meet these parameters, it will be up to homeowners, residential communities, and/or the county to control the infestation. The growing season is almost over this year, but MountainTrue is working in consultation with TVA to develop specific recommendations for homeowners and residential communities to control the parrot feather next year. We will host public information sessions early in the season and will have referrals for licensed applicators working in our area.*

*>>>>>Continues Bottom of Page 6*

# SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AT MEETINGS ATTENDED BY TCCA BOARD MEMBERS

(Summary of meetings taken place since last newsletter)

## City and County Government

### City of Hiawassee:

- \* Home Team is working on 2 affordable housing projects; one in City of Hiawassee by the new Dunkin' Donuts will have 54 units of 1,2, & 3 bedrooms for sale \$193K-\$223K; one in Y.H.; Both projects need to be approved by GA Dept. of Community Affairs. [\(July Minutes\)](#)
- \* Council will vote to change the Hotel Motel Ord. from 5% - 8%. [\(July Minutes\)](#)
- \* The Overlook project behind Dunkin needs a variance to go from 45 to 54 units on 5 acres; HOA there \$100/yr; units are for sale, not rent and are to be no second homes. [\(August Minutes\)](#)
- \* New restrictions for the use of Feather signs at businesses. They are only to advertise your business-take down when closed, and only 3-4 signs of any kind per business. [\(August Minutes\)](#)
- \* Berrong House roofing project \$76K max paid with SPLOST money. [\(August Minutes\)](#)
- \* Jimmy Buffett event @ Ridges brought in 700 people, grossed \$52K. [\(August Minutes\)](#)
- \* Monica McKenna was re-appointed to DDA Board for 1 term. [\(August Minutes\)](#)
- \* Parrot Feather weed is again growing in the lake; freezing temps did not kill it. Should be addressed soon. [\(Sept. Minutes\)](#)
- \* A public meeting on Overlook Homes will be on 9/7, 6 p.m. at Civic Center. [\(Sept. Minutes\)](#)
- \* Grant of \$10,333 on Paris Business Center (PBC) with City match of \$93K. [\(Sept. Minutes\)](#)
- \* Anne Mitchell brought up zoning discussion, ending with the need for someone to come to tell citizens details on zoning, overlay zoning in City, etc. [\(Sept. Minutes\)](#)
- \* 9/11 Historical Soc. mtg.: Berrong-Oakley House was bought for \$290K out of \$350K left over Covid funds; original 1902 blueprints of the house were sent to Hist. Society/City; cost to restore estimated at \$250K; a Preservation Designer has been hired with money from a donor. [\(Sept. Minutes\)](#)

**Update: Notes from Hiawassee City Council Meeting:** A call for consideration and discussion of variance request by the Common at Lake Chatuge to amend the ordinance to allow for more home to be built on the property. Someone on the committee said, "No discussion." Nancy Noblet asked for a motion to accept or deny the variance and Mr. Junior Chastain said, "We deny." Committee members raised their hands to agree. Ms. Noblet said, "Meeting adjourned." Took 5 minutes. [\(Sept. 26\)](#)

### City of Young Harris:

- \* Discussed Home Team project in Y.H. to go between EMC & Brasstown Valley Resort, with 49 apts., 1,2, & 3 bedrooms, \$700-\$1K rent (Sec.42 Hsg., not Sec.8). [\(July Minutes\)](#)
- \* Council adopted DCA's (Dept. of Community Affairs) "Main St." program which includes selection of a director, 5-person board & By Laws; all being worked on. [\(July Minutes\)](#)
- \* Decision regarding water system supply repair/upgrade for Timberline. Of two engineering options available, the council chose the one that provided a redundant supply capability at less cost. [\(August Minutes\)](#)
- \* \$5,332 spent to repair the fluid pump at the Sewer Plant; after residents complained. [\(Sept. Minutes\)](#)
- \* Yield sign will be put at Brasstown Shadow Rd. & a stop sign will be put at Mineral Springs Rd. intersection. [\(Sept. Minutes\)](#)

### Commissioner's Meetings:

- \* The late Sheriff Jay Chastain, Sr. and the late Rev. Jimmy Rogers were recognized and honored. Dist. 8 State Rep. Stan Gunter read the resolution naming the area on Hwy. 76/288 where Chastain was shot. [\(July Minutes\)](#)
- \* Gunter also read the resolution dedicating the new bridge over Brasstown Creek on Hwy. 66 in Y.H. as Rev. Jimmy Rogers Memorial Bridge. [\(July Minutes\)](#)
- \* Commissioner approved 926 checks for Homestead Exemption refunds. He amended the 2023 Budget adding \$91K to Gen. Insurance Expenditures—a 30% increase. [\(July Minutes\)](#)
- \* Janet Oliva has retired from the Board of Elections and Roy Perren was appointed in her place, Jeff Pierot appointed Republican Nominee 2023-27, Betsy Young, Republican Nominee-2023-25. [\(July Minutes\)](#)
- \* The old benches from the Courtroom will be used in the new Probate Judges Courtroom upstairs. [\(August Minutes\)](#)
- \* A plaque was presented to Candice Lee for her work with the Chamber of Commerce. [\(August Minutes\)](#)
- \* Courthouse update-old courtroom wooden benches have been saved to go into Probate Judge's new courtroom. Tax and SPLOST collections are still good. [\(Sept. Minutes\)](#)

## Health and Education

### **Board of Education:**

- \* ESPLOST on Nov. ballot, which would raise Sales Tax to 8%. (July Minutes)
- \* ESPLOST that will be on the Nov. ballot was discussed further, along with the plans for the new Ag building. (Sept. Minutes)

## City and County Utilities

### **BRMEMC**

- \* Storms in July posed a difficulty due to line and pole damage; however, each issue was resolved with relative moderated down service time. (August Minutes)
- \* The average household electrical use is approximately 885 kWh; there are currently 14900 fiber internet accounts; growing at about 250/month; there are 630 Smart Fiber Subscribers. (August Minutes)
- \* The EV fast charging stations in Blairsville are operational at a cost of 42 cents per kWh; the State is expected to add a “road tax” of 8 cents per kWh. (August Minutes)
- \* A \$2.50 increase will be on your electric bill under Customer Charge, so everyone pays. This is due to TVA raising their price. (Sept. Minutes)

### **T.C. Water & Sewer Authority:**

- \* 110 high usages were reported, and the consensus analysis was that such usage is primarily rentals using water "like crazy" as well as pools, gardens, and other relief related to the heat wave. (July Minutes)
- \* Discussion continues about the use of remote/auto water cut-off valves. Board to consider offering such devices to customers. (July Minutes)
- \* Water leak insurance, a means to help cover costs of water leakage by homeowner, such as City of Hiawassee has had for some time now, will be offered to TCWA residents. (Sept. Minutes)

## Community Interest

### **Lake Chatuge Chamber of Commerce:**

- \* This year's Made in GA Event attendance down, but revenues were only down \$96 from 2022. (July Minutes)
- \* July 4th Boat Parade had 30 boats—most ever & all well decorated. DDA Fun-Raiser Sons of Sailors (Jimmy Buffett cover band), 7/15 at Ridges—tables sold out. (July Minutes)
- \* Chamber is in charge of Costume Contest at “Fang”tastic Halloween at Fairgrounds (Sept. Minutes)
- \* Chamber has received \$11,045 CVB funds for advertising; 2023 Holiday Bazaar, 11/4-5, Rec. Center. (Sept. Minutes)

### **CVB (Convention Visitors Board)**

- \* Georgia Mountain Fair was approved \$10K for 2024 Car Show; New type of Egg Festival in May 2024, approved \$5K. (July Minutes)
- \* Board members presented complex market analysis and professional media commercial proposals to target a 2024 advertising campaign. Various features: travel trends, viewing habits, content delivery, seasonal sporting events, etc. are offered for consideration. For videos, voicing, and other productions, they offer to use local talent, both local amateur and professional. The geographic area to be covered includes much of NE Georgia beginning in the Atlanta area. (August Minutes)

*Note: The information presented in the above may not necessarily reflect the final decisions from the noted meeting. Summaries are as submitted by Board attendees and edited for this publication. Future newsletters will reflect updated information as it becomes available.*

## ★ SPECIAL FEATURED ARTICLE ★

From time to time, the TCCA discovers issues presented at various meetings our Board Members attend which may be of interest to our citizenry. Our county and municipal administrators have a tremendous responsibility to ensure our citizens are getting the types of services expected to properly live, work and enjoy in our area. This article deals with the services supplied by Hiawassee and the administration of Mayor Liz Ordiales which supplies water and sewer services to not only the citizens within the Hiawassee city limits but also to parts of Towns County and into North Carolina. Mayor Ordiales invited the TCCA Board to review the operations of both the Hiawassee Water Treatment Plant and the Hiawassee Wastewater Treatment Plant and to ask questions about their current operations and how they are planning to deal with the continued growth within our county in which they serve.

Our review consisted of meeting with Mayor Ordiales, on two separate occasions, for a PowerPoint presentation outlining the complexities of both the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Water Treatment Plant. During these meetings we were given detailed

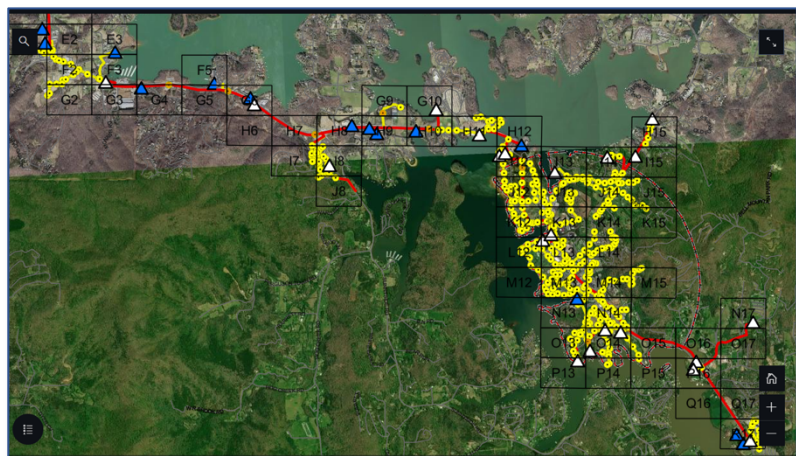


maps showing all the infrastructure involved in these two operations. We were also given budget and expense reports for each and an overview of the challenges, and they are numerous, to ensure these operations operate efficiently and within government guidelines. These PowerPoint presentations allowed our Board members to ask questions about how these operations work and how far outside of the city limits the services are offered. After each session, our Board was given a tour of each facility to see the steps and processes involved in each of these plants. We were also given the opportunity to meet with staff and supervisors and ask questions of them to make sure they have what is needed to properly do what is needed to service their clients.

Below are summaries of each of these sessions. Each of these processes involved in treating of wastewater and to supply clean, abundant fresh water to our area is complicated and expensive requiring, often time, state of the art equipment and monitoring devices. As you would expect, the drawing of water from Lake Chatuge and making sure it is safe to drink and use and then making sure the wastewater coming back to the treatment is properly filtered and clean is of paramount importance to Hiawassee.

## **REVIEW OF THE HIAWASSEE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

The wastewater system managed by Mr. Andrew Sims and controlled by Hiawassee City government is extensive. Not only does it serve the vast majority of the citizens within Hiawassee city limits, and it also serves areas in and around Highway 76 coming into the county from both directions and down Bell Creek Road. The entire system consists of numerous miles of pipe, lift stations and generators to make sure the wastewater continues to flow to the wastewater plant (see map at left). A failure of any one segment of the system could result in an environmental hazard anywhere along the route. As was demonstrated and pointed out during the Board's review, the city has taken aggressive measures to ensure that does not happen. The wastewater plant continuously monitors sensors and makes regular inspections to make sure the system is working as designed. Mayor Ordiales has gone so far as to plan for the moving of pipelines that are currently dangerously close to the swimming area on Lake Chatuge near Marina Station to minimize the possibility of contaminating that area in the event of a wastewater leak.



Additionally, new generators have been installed to prevent backups should a power outage prevent the pumps and lift stations from moving the waste through the pipe system.

	Jul '22 - Jun 23	Budget
Total Income	789,822.47	797,450.00
Gross Profit	789,822.47	797,450.00
Expense		
5111002 - Regular Employees - Sewer	68,657.64	77,481.00
5113002 - Overtime - Sewer	0.00	2,014.00
5121002 - Group Insurance - Sewer	20,235.67	21,712.00
5122002 - SS (FICA) Contribution - Sewer	4,255.43	5,422.00
5123002 - Medicare - Sewer	995.49	1,276.00
5124002 - Retirement Contributions - Sewer	1,531.43	2,083.00
5126002 - Unemployment Insurance - Sewer	45.36	180.00
5211002 - Official/Administrative - Sewer	18,305.84	9,000.00
5212002 - Professional - Sewer	9,353.75	3,000.00
5215002 - Management Fees - Sewer	11,100.00	15,000.00
5221102 - Disposal-Garbage Pickup - Sewer	48,824.63	55,000.00
5222002 - Repairs & Maintenance - Sewer	155,392.56	75,000.00
5223202 - Rental Of Equip & Vehicle-Sewer	0.00	1,500.00
5231002 - Insurance-Not Employee - Sewer	13,664.83	20,000.00
5232002 - Communications - Sewer	572.41	1,800.00
5236002 - Dues And Fees - Sewer	252.00	1,000.00
5237002 - Education And Training - Sewer	900.00	1,000.00
5238002 - Licenses - Sewer	0.00	200.00
5311002 - Gen Supplies & Materials - Sewer	74,460.69	81,021.00
5312302 - Electricity - Sewer	114,094.72	127,000.00
5312402 - Bottled Gas - Sewer	592.26	0.00
5312702 - Gasoline - Sewer	3,333.59	2,200.00
5425002 - Cap. Outlay - Oth Equip - Sewer	3,445.33	210,000.00
5522002 - Claims - Sewer	0.00	2,000.00
5722001 - Payment To Other Agencies - G...	0.00	15,000.00
5821002 - Interest - Bonds - Sewer	4,852.94	67,000.00
5911110 - ASK ACCOUNTANT	0.00	0.00
Total Expense	554,866.57	796,889.00

Once the wastewater is received at the plant, the process of “cleaning and purifying” the water begins. In recent years, the plant has undergone an expensive modernization of the entire system to ensure there is very little foul smell coming from the plant, which during our inspection was hardly detectable, and to make sure the water being returned to the lake is “clean”. The process to ensure the cleanliness of the water is just as extensive as the process we saw with making sure the drinking water is safe. During our tour, we not only saw each step of the process, but we saw how the trash and waste filtered from the water was disposed. The difference in the water coming into the plant verses leaving the plant was amazing. In fact, based on measurements and monitors throughout the process, the water leaving the plant, is “cleaner” than the actual Lake Chatuge water. As you can imagine, the management and infrastructure of such an operation is expensive. Just like everything else, the costs of pipe, joints, monitors, and disposal equipment are not cheap and are continuing to rise each year. The mayor was willing to share, with the Board, the table at left showing the budget and expenses for this operation. □

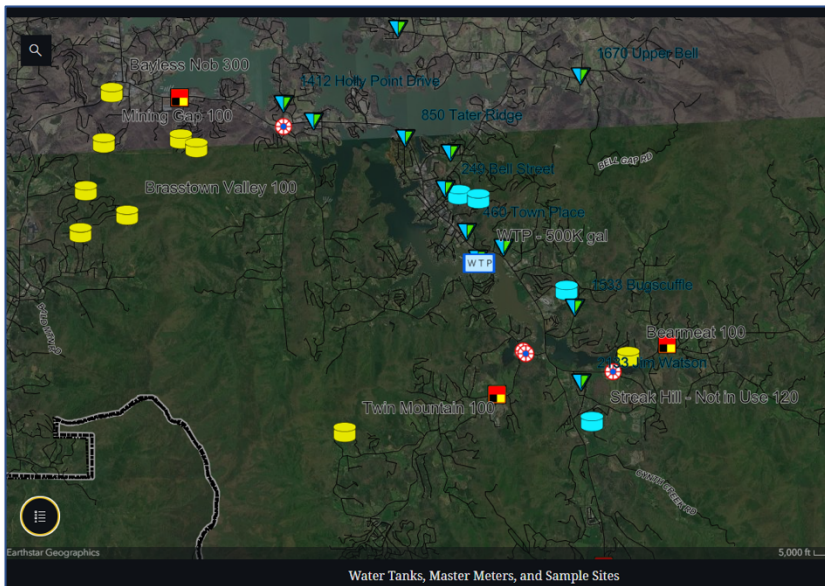
Per the information on this table, the city has budgeted collecting nearly \$800,000 in revenues for the year ending in June 2023 (collections were slightly lower than budgeted). The budgeted expenses for the same period are nearly identical to expected revenues but due to frugal spending practices in some areas, the final expenses were well within budget and revenues collected.

You will note the salaries for such an operation are modest due to much of the operations are automated. Repairs, electricity, and other related cost increases are primarily due to inflation and unexpected replacement of components which often fail within the operational year and not budgeted.

Responsible management of the funds for such a complicated and essential operation such as wastewater treatment are necessary so that any surplus funds from one year will be set aside for contingency purposes in the case of catastrophic system failures and/or systems upgrades.

### **REVIEW OF THE HIAWASSEE WATER TREATMENT PLANT**

“The mission of the City of Hiawassee Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is to provide a safe and adequate supply of drinking water for Hiawassee and Towns County, complying with all Federal and State of Georgia Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health and aesthetic standards. After treatment, water is maintained at sufficient levels and pressure for residential, commercial, industrial, and firefighting purposes.” The Water Treatment Plant is managed by Mr. Clint Royce and it too is controlled by Hiawassee City government.



As you can imagine, the Hiawassee Water Treatment Plant is a complex array of pipes, filters, purification treatment processes, storage, and monitoring systems to ensure the water we drink and use within our homes and businesses are clean and healthy for human consumption. The water distributed from this plant not only supplies customers within Hiawassee but also customers within the county and reaching into parts of North Carolina.

The map at left, shows the locations of the water tanks, master meters and sample sites across the network. Regarding the water tanks, the levels are constantly monitored to make sure they are at proper levels to supply

customers across the system. This monitoring also allows for water treatment personnel to determine if there are leaks anywhere within the system. Leaks are unavoidable as they can be caused by a number of circumstances such as weather, ground disturbances or pipe structural fatigue. The personnel assigned to water treatment system are on call 24 hours a day 7 days a week to make sure any interruptions of water services to customers are resolved as soon as possible.



The source of water used by Hiawassee Water Treatment Plant comes from Lake Chatuge just off Highway 76 near Mayor's Park which is also the location of the Water Treatment Plant. Once the water is pumped from Lake Chatuge, it goes through a complex, multi-step process of filtering the water before it is treated with antibacterial chemicals to ensure purity. The process is monitored every step of the way for quality control by Plant personnel and the whole operation is regularly checked and certified by EPA in support of "Section 12-5-170et seq., as amended), and to carry out the purposes and requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (PL 93-523). These Rules are promulgated so the citizens of the State of Georgia shall be assured adequate, safe drinking water of the highest quality."

Our tour of the facility allowed our Board members to see where the water enters the plant, the initial filtration processes before going into a storage area for final treatment. To the credit of the Mayor Ordiales and Hiawassee City Council, plans are already underway to expand the facility to accommodate growth in the area realizing this Plant not only services customers within the city limits but also in areas across Towns County and into North Carolina. During the Mayor's presentation, she stressed the need for both the Water Treatment Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Plant keep updating their operations to make sure the entire systems are not overwhelmed by the population growth in the area.

The two tables, supplied by Mayor Ordiales and shown next page, reflect the costs associated with these services and the types of expenses associated with meeting the requirements associated with fresh water and wastewater treatments.



City of Hiawassee - Water Treatment Plant Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July 2022 through June 2023		
Expense	Jul '22 - Jun 23	Budget
511100 - Regular Employees	163,334.33	162,000.00
511300 - Overtime	0.00	20,363.00
512100 - Group Insurance	41,708.92	33,508.00
512200 - Social Sec. - FICA Contribution	9,996.12	9,632.00
512300 - Medicare	2,338.02	2,256.00
512400 - Retirement Contributions	1,136.73	4,129.00
512600 - Unemployment Insurance	147.07	257.00
521100 - Official/Administrative	7,105.12	10,000.00
521200 - Professional	123,747.45	105,000.00
522110 - Disposal (Garbage Pickup)	1,852.50	1,400.00
522200 - Repairs And Maintenance	51,554.44	65,000.00
523100 - Insurance - Not Employee	13,273.40	20,000.00
523200 - Communications	1,390.18	1,000.00
523300 - Advertising	0.00	2,000.00
523600 - Dues and Fees	244.19	1,000.00
523700 - Education And Training	4,510.83	2,000.00
523800 - License	0.00	500.00
523900 - Other Purchased Services	0.00	
531100 - General Supplies & Materials	93,096.67	67,344.00
531230 - Electricity	110,858.87	106,000.00
531240 - Bottled Gas	6,517.32	1,500.00
531270 - Gasoline	1,249.05	500.00
531501 - Wheeling Fee Expense - Internal	0.00	125,000.00
542500 - Capital Outlay	0.00	35,000.00
561010 - Depreciation	0.00	60,000.00
572010 - DNR-Drinking Water Fees	6,600.00	6,000.00

WATER USAGE RECAP 2023							
Numbers	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Water Prod	48.46	37.48	41.92	41.98	46.02	48.8	55.14
Water Sold	41.54	32.59	36.39	37.15	41.55	44.32	50.08
Towns County	21.329	17.536	19.779	19.952	21.64	23.768	24.779
Hiawassee	20.211	14.075	16.611	17.198	20.02	20.552	25.301
Hiawassee Water Billing	\$130,393	\$120,370	\$102,950	\$117,768	\$123,003	\$137,182	\$138,269
Hiawassee Sewer Billing	\$62,481	\$72,150	\$55,997	\$61,326	\$60,181	\$69,276	\$67,938
TCWA Sewer Collection	\$12,684	\$12,028	\$13,083	\$14,159	\$13,156	\$15,978	\$14,746
Total Sewer Collection	\$75,165	\$84,178	\$69,080	\$75,485	\$73,337	\$85,254	\$82,684
Hiawassee Total Billing (IncPenalties)	\$197,308	\$196,954	\$172,030	\$193,253	\$196,340	\$222,436	\$220,953
Water Used-Not Billed	0	0	0	0		0	0
Water Loss-Adj							
Water Billed Consumption	10.760	9.118	6.52	8.90	9.88	11.5	11.7
Unaccounted for water	9.451	4.957	10.093	8.298	10.143	9.082	13.601
Hiawassee Water Loss	46.8%	35.2%	60.8%	48.2%	50.7%	44.2%	53.8%
# of Accounts	2247	2245	2241	2246	2252	2254	

In summary, our Board members are thankful of the mayor and her staff for allowing us to review and critique the operations associated with these two essential services supplied by the City of Hiawassee. The Board was also impressed by the forethought exhibited by Mayor Ordiales and the City Council in making sure these two operations are funded at a level that will give their customers safe and reliable water and sewer treatment. Their planning for future growth is equally impressive for, as we all know, this area is continuing to grow at a rapid pace. If our administrators do not properly plan accordingly, many of us will be affected by poorer services and, in the case of a catastrophic wildfires or major system failures, temporary loss of

water and sewer services will be inevitable.

The TCCA and its members assume no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions in the content of this publication. The information contained in this Newsletter is provided on an "as is" basis with no guarantees of completeness, accuracy, usefulness, or timeliness.

>>>>Continued from Page 1: Ms. Callie Moore, Western Region Program Coordinator for MountainTrue:

*It's important to remember that there are native aquatic plants in Lake Chatuge which fish and other aquatic life rely on for food and cover from predators. Homeowners should work with professionals to be certain that they have a nonnative invasive plant before undertaking any management activities.*

To help control invasive plants:

- ☐ **Keep it Clean**—Remove all plant material from boats, trailers, bilges, live wells and any other equipment. This will prevent troublesome aquatic species from being introduced into other lakes.
- ☐ **Native Water Gardening Only**—Please plant only native species around shorelines. While non-native species like ornamental lilies and water hyacinth are beautiful, they will quickly spread if introduced into the river.
- ☐ **Drain and Dry**—When visiting reservoirs with known invasive plants, make sure all equipment is dry and free from fragments. Even completely dry fragments have the potential to grow once submersed again.
- ☐ **No Dumping!** —Please refrain from dumping unwanted aquarium or water garden plants into nearby streams and rivers. Dispose of any unwanted plants in the garbage.

*If you have questions, contact Mountain True Western Region Program Coordinator Tony Ward at [tony@mountaintrue.org](mailto:tony@mountaintrue.org) or 828-837-5414 ext. 3.*



### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Towns County Civic Association**  
PO Box 455, Hiawassee, GA 30546-0455

### TCCA BOARD MEMBERS

*John Clemens Michael Courey*

*Larry Dietsch Anna Denton David Best*

*Joan Crothers Jim Olson*

**Email:** townscountycivicassociation@gmail.com

**Website:** townscountycivicassociation.com

### For Members to Know

As a member of Towns County Civic Association, you are always welcome to attend our monthly meetings. They are typically held on the second Wednesday of each month (time and location may vary so please check with a Board Member before attending). If you, as a member, wish to share a concern or wish to make a presentation, please let one of our Board Members know to have time scheduled.

### NON-PROFIT SUPPORT (contributions over the years)

The TCCA, on occasion, will share their funds with various organizations supporting the citizens of Towns County. Below are a few of those organizations we have helped fund.

**Towns County High School  
Scholarship Fund**

**Enotah CASA**

**MountainTrue (Formally  
Hiawassee River Watershed)**

**Music on the Square**

**NOTICE:** The TCCA desperately needs volunteers to be a part of our Board. If you are interested in knowing more about how the county and municipalities operate as well as those areas supporting our citizenry such as the Board of Education, Health Department and those agencies supplying us with water and power (Blue Ridge EMC), the TCCA is an ideal organization for you. We have a significant voice in how these entities serve us in Towns County. If you wish to join our Board, please let one of our Board Members know. We would love to have as part of our team.

## GENERAL TCCA ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

TCCA membership is approximately at 95 individual memberships, 1 HOA's and 2 businesses. Most annual memberships end on June 30 of each year unless you have paid for a two-year membership which saves \$5.00. If you haven't already paid your dues for this year (2023-2024) or for a two-year membership, please do so right away. See form below:

*The Towns County Civic Association exists to support you the citizens and businesses of Towns County. We monitor the various media sources reporting on the activities within Towns County to understand what is of interest to our citizens. More importantly, we listen to you, our members, to understand what they believe we as an Association should be doing to make Towns County a wonderful place to live, work and play. The TCCA does not get any funds from the city, county, or state government. We solely rely on your membership dues and our volunteers to do what we do in support of Towns County. So please, for those of you needing to renew their membership, complete the form below and continue to support our efforts.*

### Application Form Instructions:

Complete each question below and mail with your dues to:

**Towns County Civic Association**  
**PO Box 455**  
**Hiawassee, GA 30546-0455**

\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE PRINT \*\*\*\*\*

**APPLICANT NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street Address (Towns Co.):** \_\_\_\_\_

**City & Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phones:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emails: (TCCA uses BCC for mailouts):** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you have an out of Towns County Address, please enter below:**

**Address, City, State and Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Membership fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. One year membership dues: **\$25.00**, or two-year membership dues – **\$45.00**.

**Paid Check #** \_\_\_\_\_ **or Cash: \$** \_\_\_\_\_. Please print and cut out the form and send to address above.

As always, the TCCA appreciates your support, and we couldn't do what we do without your continuing membership in support of our efforts for Towns County.