

**ACTION ITEM
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

DATE. December 16, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Harry L. Critzer
Director of Utilities



ISSUE: Refer Water Rates for Water-Dependent Home-Based Businesses to the Utilities Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Refer Issue to Utilities Commission

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

ATTACHMENTS (2)

[1] Background Report

[2] Reso/Ord/Proc #R08-562

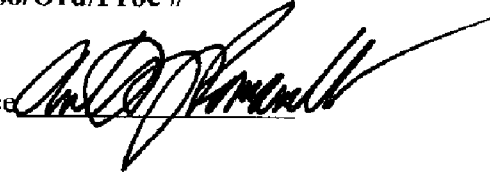
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[] Reso/Ord/Proc #

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[] Reso/Ord/Proc #

REVIEW: [X] County Administrator's Office



[] Legal

[] Budget

[X] **Consent Agenda**

[] **Other Business**

[] **Public Hearing**

[] **Discussion Item**

[] **Presentation**

[] **Unfinished Business**

[] **New Business**

PRESENTATION BY: N/A

ELECTION DISTRICT: N/A

BACKGROUND REPORT

The Board approved Ordinance O08-40 on June 17, 2008. The new ordinance provides for an increase in the rate charged for water consumption in excess of 20,000 gallons per month from \$7.85 to \$23.55 per thousand gallons effective July 1, 2008.

Based upon a comparison of the number of water users consuming more than 20,000 gallons in August versus September, it appears that the new "conservation rate" has been effective in reducing water usage within the high-volume pricing tier for residential usage. However, it has come to our attention that there are home-based businesses in Stafford that rely upon water to serve their customers. While it was our intention to encourage residential water users to reduce discretionary water usage, the conservation rate was not intended to impact non-residential water users. As a result, an additional customer class may be needed to more fairly address those home-based businesses that rely on water usage as a part of their business operation.

Staff recommends that the Board refer this issue to the Utilities Commission for further evaluation and subsequent recommendation to the Board within 60 days.

PROPOSED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF STAFFORD
STAFFORD, VIRGINIA

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Stafford County Board of Supervisors (the Board) held in the Board Chambers, Stafford County Administration Center, Stafford, Virginia, on the 16th day of December, 2008

MEMBERS

VOTE

George H Schwartz, Chairman
M S "Joe" Brito, Vice Chairman
Harry E Crisp II
Mark Dudenhefer
Paul V Milde III
Cord A Sterling
Robert "Bob" Woodson

On motion of , seconded by , which carried by a vote of , the following was adopted

A RESOLUTION TO REFER THE ISSUE OF WATER RATES FOR
WATER-DEPENDENT HOME-BASED BUSINESSES TO THE
UTILITIES COMMISSION FOR FURTHER EVALUATION AND
RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS, the Board adopted Ordinance O08-40 on June 17, 2008 which provides for an increase in the rate charged for residential water consumption in excess of 20,000 gallons per month to promote water conservation, and

WHEREAS, it has come to the Board's attention that some home-based businesses are dependent on water consumption to serve their customers, and

WHEREAS, it was not the Board's intent for the new conservation rate to impact non-residential water usage,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Stafford County Board of Supervisors on this the 16th day of December 2008, that the issue of water rates for water-dependent home-based businesses be referred to the Utilities Commission for further review and recommendation back to the Board within 60 days

AJR HLC hc