



## UNION COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

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### News Release

### **Public Works to Extend Water Service**

**June 20, 2012, Monroe, NC** – The Union County Board of Commissioners recently approved an annual program that allows Union County Public Works to extend water service and provide an environmental benefit to citizens in Union County. The program, which starts July 1, 2012 and recurs each July 1, offers a limited number of property owners funding assistance for residential and non-residential short water line extensions.

Funding assistance is limited (approximately \$500,000 per year) and applies to the first 1,000 linear feet of pipeline needed to connect to Union County's water system. If more than 1,000 linear feet of pipeline is required for a connection, the additional length will be paid 100 percent by the property owner, except in situations where a documented health hazard exist. Business owners requesting to connect to the water system are required to pay 50 percent of the cost up to 1,000 linear feet and 100 percent beyond 1,000 linear feet. Health hazard applicants pay nothing for the first 1,000 linear feet of pipeline and only 50 percent of the cost between 1,000 – 2,500 linear feet. All property owners who participate in this program are responsible for paying tap and capacity fees currently totaling \$1,600.

To qualify for an extension, a line must be located within a publicly maintained road right-of-way or it must be within a dedicated easement providing ingress or egress for the lot to be served. If a citizen applies based on a health hazard, the applicant must furnish evidence from Union County Environmental Health officials that a health hazard exists.

Public Works will consider multiparty applications from property owners joining together for one lengthy line extension. The length of the proposed joint line extension requested through this program cannot exceed a total of 6,000 linear feet. Waterlines will be extended, at UCPW's cost, up to 1,000 linear feet per qualifying applicant. The 1,000 linear feet must be within the applicant's road right-of-way frontage. Each applicant on the joint line extension application is responsible for paying tap and capacity fees as well as any additional line extension cost necessary to serve their property and connect to the water system.

Public Works will hold an informational meeting to review the specific requirements of the program, including eligibility under the health hazard provision, on Thursday, June 28 at 6:30 p.m. in the Personnel Training Room of the Union County Government Center at 500 N. Main Street in Monroe.

Applications for water line extensions will be accepted in person on a first come, first served basis beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, July 2, 2012 in the Personnel Training Room on the first floor of the Union County Government Center at 500 North Main Street in Monroe.

Applications will be date and time stamped and reviewed in the order in which they are received. For more information or to download and print an application, visit <http://ucpw.co.union.nc.us>.

After receiving a completed application, Union County Public Works will review the applications to ensure compliance with the ordinance and place the project on a priority list; notify all applicants in writing that they either do not meet the qualifications of the program; meet qualifications and funding is available for the project; or, meet qualifications but funding is unavailable for the project. Applicants whose projects are outside funding limitations will remain on the priority list for consideration in the next fiscal year. The priority list will be renewed annually as additional funding is available. At that time applicants will be given the option to remain on the priority list by paying all applicable cost and fees.

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