

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.  
2200 Camp Branch Road  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
November 1, 2023

**Subject: Mark Pless/Team Waynesville = 3, Rob Hites/Incumbents = 0. Email Dialog with Rob Hites.**

Citizens of the Town of Waynesville will be paying off a \$25M Loan for repairs to upgrade the Sewer System that have been so severe the State has placed moratorium on new hook-ups until the problem is resolved. Other nearby counties and municipalities received funding from the state legislature for their infrastructure problems simply because they requested help from Mark Pless.

Waynesville's sewer problems not happen yesterday, but have been lingering for years under **Rob Hites** and the current Town Council. Waynesville is not the only municipality with these problems. Canton, for example, is losing their sewer system with the close of the paper mill.

Twice, once during a Rally for Team Waynesville, immediately following the Apple Festival on 10/21/2023, at 6 pm on the Courthouse Steps, and again on a YouTube video with Team Waynesville candidates,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3u0btkWshtA>

Mark Pless rattled off various counties and municipalities that had received infrastructure funding from the legislature, simply because they asked him for it. Waynesville did not receive funding, because no one from Waynesville asked, because no official in Waynesville likes Mark Pless.

To get to the bottom of this, I made a Request for Public Information to **Rob Hites** for the following:

“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.”

Results of this Request for Public Information were unfortunately unsatisfying from **Rob Hites**.

In the final analysis -

- Mark Pless demonstrated that multiple counties and municipalities received funding from the state legislature because they simply asked him for it, and
- The only document **Rob Hites** responded with was an Application for NC DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality), Division of Water Infrastructure, North Carolina, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supplemental Funding, Submitted by: Town of Waynesville. Prepared by **McGill Associates**, 55 Broad Street, Asheville, NC 28801. Fall 2022. No rejection letter was ever produced.

This entire email dialog began on 10/26/ 2023, after the Rally after the Apple Festival, and ended yesterday with **Rob Hites** informing me: “That concludes the information we have on the subject.”, i.e., a blow-off.

Town Council Incumbents, obviously concerned, called out chief water boy **Cory Vaillancourt** and chief water girl **Vicki Hyatt** with two articles yesterday to carry their water. See their articles respectively in the snm tabloid and the mountaineer (behind a pay wall).

It hit the fan yesterday.

In the smn tabloid -

'Sewage plant claims heat up Waynesville election', by **Cory Vaillancourt**, Tuesday, October 31, 2023

<https://smokymountainnews.com/news/item/36662-sewage-plant-claims-heat-up-waynesville-election>

and in the mountaineer (behind a pay wall) -

'Waynesville leaders deflect allegations by Pless', By Vicki Hyatt vhyatt@themountaineer.com Oct 30, 2023

[https://www.themountaineer.com/news/waynesville-leaders-deflect-allegations-by-pless/article\\_d59ed15e-7780-11ee-be71-930021b14281.html](https://www.themountaineer.com/news/waynesville-leaders-deflect-allegations-by-pless/article_d59ed15e-7780-11ee-be71-930021b14281.html)

These articles have been countered with a different perspective on [www.HaywoodHappenings.org](http://www.HaywoodHappenings.org) - (linked to on [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net) ) -

[HaywoodHappenings.org](http://HaywoodHappenings.org). 'The Mountaineer wrote a fair article based on the lies they were told by the current council but read the truth here!' Mark Pless/Team Waynesville = 2, Rob Hites/Incumbents = 0. 10/31/2023...

<https://haywoodhappenings.org/content.haywoodhappenings.org/viewtopic.php?p=803&sid=945006fb5a10e7a1907705f1feb0d74f#p803>

and

[HaywoodHappenings.org](http://HaywoodHappenings.org). 'Villaincourt is so desperate to keep the failed city council he proved Freeman a liar and the City Council incompetent'. Mark Pless/Team Waynesville = 1, Rob Hites/Incumbents = 0. 10/31/2023...

<https://haywoodhappenings.org/content.haywoodhappenings.org/viewtopic.php?t=603&sid=424cdd0d5470ff7c98871a876636a3c5>

Then we have this email dialog with the City Manager himself, **Rob Hites**, who had the opportunity, but squandered it, and/or was unable or unwilling to counter Mark Pless.

This email dialog is a continuation of my original piece on [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net) -

[Email Dialog with Rob Hites. There is currently a pissing contest between NC Legislator Mark Pless and Waynesville Town Manager Rob Hites. Did Rob Hites request a Grant from the state for the Sewer Upgrade? 10/29/2023...](http://Email Dialog with Rob Hites. There is currently a pissing contest between NC Legislator Mark Pless and Waynesville Town Manager Rob Hites. Did Rob Hites request a Grant from the state for the Sewer Upgrade? 10/29/2023...)

<https://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/231029EmailDialogHitesSewerGrant.pdf>

Here we go...

Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - Distressed Grant Application for Sewer Plant. #4  
Date: Mon, 30 Oct 2023 01:29:23 -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>, Joey Reece <mtnreece@gmail.com>, Stephanie Sutton <stutton1972@yahoo.com>, Peggy Hannah <peggyanne56@gmail.com>

Mr. Hites,

[?], [?].

See: [Email Dialog with Rob Hites. There is currently a pissing contest between NC Legislator Mark Pless and Waynesville Town Manager Rob Hites. Did Rob Hites request a Grant from the state for the Sewer Upgrade? 10/29/2023...](#)

[YouTube. Team Waynesville - Setting the Record Straight. 10/29/2023...](#)

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

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Subject: FW: Waynesville 2022 -2023 WWSRF application  
Date: Mon, 30 Oct 2023 20:59:02 +0000  
From: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>  
To: Monroe Miller  
CC: Martha Sharpe Bradley <martha@sosharpe.com>

Please click on the link below. The file is too large to email.

From: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>  
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 4:41 PM  
To: Monroe Miller  
Subject: FW: Waynesville 2022 -2023 WWSRF application

<https://file.ac/bkbJ08VVUWA/>

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Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - Distressed Grant Application for Sewer Plant. #5  
Date: Tue, 31 Oct 2023 00:31:38 -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>, Joey Reece <mtnreece@gmail.com>, Stephanie Sutton <stsutton1972@yahoo.com>, Peggy Hannah <peggyanne56@gmail.com>

Mr. Hites,

Thank you for sending me the following link - <https://file.ac/bkbJ08VVUWA/>

I have copied it to my website, [www.haywoodtp.net](http://www.haywoodtp.net), so that other people can follow our conversation.

[Rob Hites response to Request for Public Information - Application for NC DEQ \(Department of Environmental Quality\), Division of Water Infrastructure, North Carolina, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supplemental Funding, Submitted by: Town of Waynesville. Prepared by McGill Associates, 55 Broad Street, Asheville, NC 28801. Fall 2022. 10/31/2023...](#)

This is a 222 page document, and the meat of it seems to be on page 4, an Application for Funding, Unique Entity Identifier - LTFMMKCSKK99. So, I searched this document for any instance of "Pless", and could not find a single instance. So I am having a little trouble connecting the dots using the document you sent me to my original request to Olga Grooman and Candace Poolton, which was:

"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."

You know, the application the Town of Waynesville made, evidently confirmed by Vicki Hyatt, where other counties picked up the phone and called Mark Pless, and he facilitated funding for multiple projects in multiple counties for infrastructure programs, except the Town of Waynesville, who never called. YouTube. Team Waynesville - Setting the Record Straight. 10/29/2023... The document you sent me was sent by McGill Associates. Still looking for the rejection notification, also.

Are you trying to say that it was McGill Associates that was supposed to pick up the phone and call Mark Pless, not you?

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - Distressed Grant Application for Sewer Plant. #6  
Date: Tue, 31 Oct 2023 10:09:11 -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>, Joey Reece <mtnreece@gmail.com>, Stephanie Sutton <stutton1972@yahoo.com>, Peggy Hannah <peggyanne56@gmail.com>

Mr. Hites,

Upon further review of the McGill "Application", on page 6, is states in a little box entitled 7. Additional Information for Consideration -

**7. Additional Information for Consideration**

Prior to being designated as “at-risk”, the Town of Waynesville received a CSWRF loan of \$19,545,900 (CS370930-01) in July 2019 and supplementary loan of \$5,000,000 in July 2022. With the Town being on the verge of Distressed status, any and all grant funding will be critical to ensuring the long-term viability of Waynesville’s utility enterprise fund. The Town of Waynesville is seeking \$15 million ARPA grant with the remainder SRF loan.

So, where did you ever pick up the phone and call Mark Pless? Where is the rejection letter?

You have provided nothing that counters what Mark Pless said at the Apple Festival Rally at 6 pm on the courthouse steps, nor in his video along side Team Waynesville Candidates. What say you?

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

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Subject: RE: Request for Public Information - Distressed Grant Application for Sewer Plant. #6  
Date: Tue, 31 Oct 2023 22:23:26 +0000  
From: Rob Hites <rhites@waynesvillenc.gov>  
To: Monroe Miller

That concludes the information we have on the subject.

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Subject: Re: Request for Public Information - Distressed Grant Application for Sewer Plant. #7

Date: Tue, 31 Oct 2023 19:16:04 -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>, Joey Reece <mtnreece@gmail.com>, Stephanie Sutton <stsutton1972@yahoo.com>, Peggy Hannah <peggyanne56@gmail.com>, Gary Caldwell <gcaldwell@waynesvillenc.gov>, Jon Feichter <jfeichter@waynesvillenc.gov>, Julia Freeman <jfreeman@waynesvillenc.gov>, Anthony Sutton <asutton@waynesvillenc.gov>, Chuck Dickson <cdickson@waynesvillenc.gov>, Scott McLeod <info@smokymountainnews.com>, Greg Boothroyd <ads@smokymountainnews.com>, Kyle Perrotti <kyle.p@smokymountainnews.com>

Mr. Hites,

You would like to think so. Let's see where this goes...

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.

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Don't forget, early voting continues through Saturday...

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.  
Haywood County Taxpayer