



RHEA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 1925

Jim Vincent
RHEA COUNTY EXECUTIVE
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24-00034

Wednesday, August 7, 2024

Electronically Filed in TPUC Docket
Room on August 12, 2024 at 8:34 a.m.

Dear Mr. Foster,

I am writing you this letter in support of the North Utility District of Rhea County's acquisition of the Newport Resort Water Systems. I have been working with the North Utility District of Rhea County for over a year on this matter. The customers of the Newport Resort Water Systems are continuously without water in their homes, and this will not be an issue once NUDR takes over. Newport Water Systems is inside of NUDR district, and it makes no sense for such a small system to be owned by an out-of-state company when we have a public utility company that would do a much better job supporting their clients. The Newport system has been very poorly cared for, for many years with constant calls of complaints to my office, the community supports NUDR because they have confidence in them. As County Executive of Rhea County, I feel this is the best way for us to move forward. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Vincent".

Jim Vincent

NORTH UTILITY DISTRICT OF RHEA COUNTY

P.O. BOX 1089
Spring City, TN 37381

Phone (423) 365 2680

July 24, 2024

Bridget Willhite, Esq.
Willhite & Mitchell, PLLC
1 East Madison Avenue
Athens, Tennessee 37371

Re: Newport Resort Water System

Dear Attorney Willhite,

It is our understanding that you are continuing to administratively oversee the operation of the Newport Resort Water System. We are aware that the Newport Resort Water System is financially stressed and has been unable to maintain a consistent quality of water to its customers for a great length of time long before you were appointed to try and maintain it as a viable utility.

North Utility District of Rhea County is the nearest utility district in Rhea County and would like to propose a merger with Newport Resort Water System. A merger is necessary to restore the financial stability of the system, insure continued operation, or otherwise ensure the well-being of the public being served by the utility system. A merger is in the best interest of Newport's customers and will not harm the customers of the North Utility District of Rhea County.

At this time, the Board would like to extend an offer of \$25,000.00 to purchase the assets of Newport Resort Water System and its customers and to immediately begin the process of obtaining permission for the merger. This offer will remain open for a period of Ninety (90) days from the date of this letter and will expire on October 22, 2024.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience to discuss the details of this letter.

Sincerely,



Villa Edwards Chairman,
North Utility District of Rhea County

cc: Jim Vincent, County Executive of Rhea County, Tennessee

PETITION TO JIM VINCENT, RHEA COUNTY MAYOR TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO
ALLOW THE ASSUMPTION OF NEWPORT RESORT WATER SYSTEM BY NORTH UTILITY
DISTRICT OF RHEA COUNTY

The undersigned owners of the properties listed below, request that Rhea County Mayor, Jim Vincent initiate all necessary steps to allow the assumption of Newport Resort Water System by North Utility District of Rhea County. These individuals are concerned about the viability of Newport Resort Water System, based upon previous water outages, lack of and response time of maintenance of the system, tenuous legal ownership and management which compromises the system as well as financial stability and the ability to service the aging system.

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