

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO.: (2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: JUNE 10, 2008

TITLE: Fertilizer Surcharge

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>X</u>
ATTACHMENTS: none	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: RANDY DODD, 918-7326

PURPOSE:

At the May 20, 2008 meeting the Board of Aldermen received a staff report on the requirements for Year 3 of the Town's NPDES stormwater permit, and expressed an interest in considering a surcharge on fertilizer sales. The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an opportunity for further discussion.

INFORMATION:

The Town's NPDES requirements include management of fertilizer application. To fulfill this requirement, a Town Code amendment was drafted in May, 2008 to require applicators of fertilizers to 5 acres or more to be certified in nutrient management, or to develop a nutrient management plan for lands receiving fertilizer. The Town may also be subject to additional nutrient regulations if the draft Jordan Lake rules are adopted by the State. One new possible approach to management of nutrients would involve a surcharge on fertilizer sales. The Town does not currently have statutory authority to pursue such a surcharge. Staff have inquired with other local and regional government staff as to other jurisdictions interest in such a surcharge and the need for enabling legislation, given the consideration of the Jordan Lake rules. Staff have learned that such a surcharge has been the topic of discussion at previous Jordan Lake stakeholder meetings. Additionally, the NC Division of Water Quality reported in September 2007 as part of the proposed regulations for Jordan Lake that: "Persons who apply fertilizers would complete nutrient management training and a written plan for those lands. A tax on fertilizer would fund the implementation of this rule". However, at this time, specific legislation has not been proposed.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT:

There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board discuss this matter and provide direction and guidance.