

**SOUTH MILLS WATER ASSOCIATION**  
103 Halstead St.  
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South Mills, NC 27976

**To:** Association Members

**From:** Association Board of Directors

**Date:** October 17, 2023

**Subject:** Update on Camden County's Possible Purchase of the Association's Water System

You may have seen in the news or on Facebook a press release that was issued by the Camden County Manager's office on Friday, October 13, 2023. The press release surprised and disappointed us. It surprised us because we are in the middle of negotiations with Camden County that could result in the transfer of the water system to the County. It disappointed us because it appears Camden County wants to use its political influence to drive a hard bargain. Let's hope Camden County can get past this and proceed with the transfer for the good of the County and the Association.

We will not rehash the Camden County press release. But we will correct important misconceptions.

1. We put our members and customers first when it comes to making sure good clean water is available. We are careful to consider all of the options and then do what we think is best for the Association.
2. As a nonprofit organization, the Association owes it to its members to not dispose of valuable assets without some sort of reasonable compensation. After considering the need to ensure that our customers (who are also citizens of Camden County) have adequate access to water on a long-term basis, the **Association Board offered (and still offers) to sell to Camden County the water system for ONE DOLLAR (\$1.00). We made that offer on September 8.**
3. We do not want to sell the Association's real and personal property not required for operation of the water system without fair compensation. This includes undeveloped real estate that we believe is worth more than mere pennies. \$1.00 for everything is asking too much.
4. As we already told Camden County, we believe this arrangement is more than fair, and also is in the best interest of our members and customers for the long-term delivery of water.