

Some Possible Questions For The Town Hall Meeting on the 27th

The people who will be answering the questions are **your** civil servants! **You** pay their salaries and benefits! If they don't precisely answer your question, then challenge them by asking the question again!

In other words, be a feisty senior citizen whose purse or wallet is being raided by the government!

Question # 1.

For Commissioner White: At the Town Hall meeting last week, you were asked about the possibility of grandfathering and delaying the backflow valve surcharges on current property owners until the property is sold and changes hands which would be a win-win for everyone. Having had ten days to think about this option, what are your thoughts?

Question # 2.

I know that I don't have a cross-connection between my irrigation system and my drinking water and can prove it by using the method prescribed by the irrigation regulations!

And yet, at two different places in the proposed Ordinance, you state that "An Auxiliary Water System with no cross connection constitutes a potential cross-connection." Therefore, I have to ultimately pay to install, test and maintain a Double Check valve which is the same as saying that a homeowner is guilty until proven innocent.

The draft Ordinance was written by George Cassady, Bob Tisdale and County Attorney Ed Helvenston. It's very easy to write an

Ordinance and subsequent bidding process to favor a kickback scheme. Since you've decided that we are guilty, shouldn't we apply that very same logic to you three that wrote the draft Ordinance, to logically conclude that since you three have the potential to set up a kickback scheme, you are therefore guilty of actually setting up a kickback scheme?

Isn't what's good for the goose also good for the gander?

Question # 3.

In the Fact Sheet that you have been distributing, you state that the yearly cost of a Dual Check will be about \$9.84. This is less than half of the cost computed by the State. Why is your figure low?

The State has estimated that the annual cost of a Double Check valve to a resident will be about \$102. What do you think the cost will be?

Question # 4.

The Double Check valve is subject to "Drive-by Testing". If private contractors do the testing, what controls are in place to make sure that they actually test all the valves assigned to them, since we citizens will ultimately be stuck with the bill, no matter what?

Question # 5.

The Double Check valve is subject to false "maintenance repair" claims if private contractors do the testing. What controls are in place to make sure that the maintenance is actually required, since we citizens will ultimately be stuck with the bill, no matter what?

Question # 6.

Muslim extremists seem to be winning the battle of terrorism in the world.

A 55-gallon drum of contaminants can be backflowed into the public drinking water supply through a Double Check valve in less than two minutes using the normal air pressures in scuba tanks. And with the draft ordinance mandating that there be thousands of them in residential front yards in Hillsborough County and knowing that a terrorist is not going to be deterred by having to flip open the lid on the meter vault and overpressure deadly chemicals and biotoxins back into the public drinking water supply resulting in the death of thousands of citizens, why play the odds?

Question # 7.

Let's all hope that the Public Utilities Department did an Impact Study and a Cost/Benefit Study long before they ever settled on specifying the Double Check valve. Were any Impact Studies or Cost/Benefit Studies ever actually done? If so, are they publicly available?

Question # 8.

Florida's Safe Drinking Water Act requires the Utilities Department to give "due regard to economic factors" when selecting a backflow valve. Were any economic factors considered at all when comparing the Double Check valve to the less expensive, reliable and tamperproof Dual Check valve, both of which have been approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for use in residential areas?

Question # 9.

Officials in the Utilities Department have sought to portray the dangers of a terrorist's backfeeding deadly chemicals and bio-toxins through a Double Check valve into the County's public drinking water supply, as minimal. Would the Utilities Department be willing to put their money where their mouth is by renouncing all sovereign immunity protections and assuming total responsibility for any and all damages related to Test Ports on Double Check valves that will be used to contaminate the public's drinking water supply? Is the Utilities Department willing to walk the walk as opposed to just talking the talk?

Question # 10.

The "Quality Starts Here" Preamble to your Annual Water Quality Report proclaims that you "pledge to continue providing high quality water in a manner that is environmentally sensitive, **cost-conscious** and takes advantage of new processes and technologies." In what way are you being cost-conscious to your customers when you chose the Double Check valve over the Dual Check valve given that both have been approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection?

Question # 11.

The proposed Ordinance makes **the homeowner** responsible for mailing the Double Check tester's report to you. Wouldn't it make more sense to put the responsibility on the tester since the homeowner may be bedridden or have Alzheimer's or dementia and their caregiver may not speak English and the person who handles the homeowners legal duties will probably charge a lot to mail the report?

Question # 12.

There are a number of HOA's in Sun City Center that have one drinking water meter that serves a dozen or so homes. The State's regulations say that as long as the supply line is two inches or less, only one backflow valve is needed. Your proposed ordinance has an additional requirement that limits the number of homes served by a two inch line. What is the **technical** reason for going beyond the State's regulations?

Question # 13.

For homeowners who have reclaimed water lines on their premises, the proposed ordinance only requires a Dual Check to prevent the reclaimed water from flowing back into the public's drinking water supply through an accidental cross-connection. You have probably never drunk even one glass of reclaimed water! If reclaimed water is that dangerous that you won't drink it and yet a Dual Check is good enough for it, shouldn't a Dual Check suffice for an Auxiliary Water System on a premise, especially since the Florida Department of Environmental Protection has approved the Dual Check for both reclaimed water and an Auxiliary Water System on a premise?

Question # 14.

Do you agree with the following statement that appeared in the Journal of the AWWA (American Water Works Association) that: "One sociopath who understands hydraulics and has access to a drum of toxic chemicals could inflict serious damage to a water supply in a neighborhood or pressure zone without detection pretty quickly in most communities."

Question # 15.

Do you understand that a Double Check valve can be used as a “delivery systems for biotoxins” into the Hillsborough County public drinking water system which is a violation of federal anti-terrorism laws?

Question # 16.

Do you accept that you three are making the federal government’s fight against terrorism all the more difficult by creating targets of opportunity for terrorists who want to harm our country?

Question # 17.

Do you accept that the recent beheadings of American citizens will pale by comparison with the carnage that will result from the contamination of the Hillsborough County public drinking water supply through your Double Check valves?

Question # 18.

Do you acknowledge that given that you three are advocating the installation of Double Check valves throughout the residential areas of Hillsborough County and that you are well aware that deadly chemicals and biotoxins can be back pressured through the valve’s Test Port #1 into the County’s public drinking water supply causing injury and death and that such an event would trigger a number of personal injury, wrongful death, property damage, and damages for business interruption lawsuits against the County and that given a sympathetic jury and Florida Legislature, Hillsborough County could be driven into bankruptcy simply because you’re insisting on a Double Check when you know that the State has also approved the less expensive tamper-proof Dual Check valve for the same level of hazard?

Question # 19.

Are you aware that sarin is a nerve gas and is one of the world's most lethal chemicals and is considered a weapon of mass destruction under UN Resolution 687 and that sarin is relatively easy to make and that sarin has a natural affinity for drinking water and that it can be easily over-pressured through a Double Check valve back into the Hillsborough County public drinking water supply to cause great harm to thousands of men, women and children?