

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority

Board of Directors Meeting February 20, 2023

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on February 20th, 2022, in the Hart County Cooperative Extension Service Building. Chairman Wade Carlton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present were Board Members Larry Haley, Bennie Harper, Marvin Justice, and Patti York; Director Pat Goran; Attorney Kim Higginbotham; Board Secretary/Treasurer Holly McBrayer; Hart County Board of Commissioners Chairman Marshall Sayer; Hart County residents Franklin Nguyen and Hung Nguyen.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Carlton suggested amending the agenda to move item 7B, Request for water service – Hometown Road poultry operation, to follow the Financial Report. Ms. York motioned to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Public Comments: remarks by invited guests

None

Approval of January 19th regular meeting minutes

Mr. Haley motioned to approve the January 19th regular meeting minutes. Ms. York seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Financial report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report.

Old Business

Request for water service – Hometown Road poultry operation

Mr. Franklin Nguyen, serving as an interpreter, requested water service on behalf of Mr. Hung Nguyen. Mr. Nguyen cited poor water quality and low well water levels as reasons for his request. Mr. Nguyen agreed to sign the standard poultry operation commitment letter which agrees to use 525,000 gallons of water per year.

Mr. Goran said that the cost estimate to go to the farm only was about \$31,000 using 6” pipe and ending with a hydrant.

After some discussion, Mr. Carlton motioned to proceed with this project as described contingent upon receiving the signed commitment letter and tap installation payment. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 4 – 1, as Mr. Justice opposed.

Request for water service – Lamb Road

Mr. Goran presented a cost estimate of \$1,124,790 to get water service to Lamb Road from HCWSA’s existing line on New Prospect Road. No action was taken.

Discussion of water and sewer service delivery territories

Mr. Goran stated that he had spoken with the City of Bowersville, the City of Canon, the City of Lavonia and the City of Royston and that each agreed to the water and sewer delivery territories essentially as currently drawn. Mr. Goran said that he will be meeting with members of the Hart County Board of Commissioners and members of Hartwell City Council on March 7 to discuss the service delivery territory maps.

Suggested capital projects for Board consideration

Mr. Goran presented a cost estimate of \$1,372,510 for the proposed Will Bailey Road / Morris Road / Beacon Light Road / Mount Olivet Road project. Mr. Goran recommended this project because of the proximity to more densely populated areas, hydraulic benefits of installing another loop in the system and engineering drawings already having been completed on Mount Olivet Road. Mr. Goran reminded the Board of funding options available through GEFA with very low interest rates which are currently 2.92%.

The Board agreed to revisit this topic at the next meeting.

Mr. Carlton suggested looking into the Cedar Creek Circle area due to past resident requests. Mr. Harper supported this suggestion mentioning getting closer to the Nuberg area.

Mr. Carlton asked Mr. Goran to present a cost estimate to get water to Cedar Creek Circle at the next meeting.

City of Lavonia wholesale rate increase

Mr. Goran informed the Board that he had met with the City of Lavonia Mayor and City Manager regarding the recent rate increase. He noted that the price had increased from \$1.96 to \$2.31 per 1,000 gallons, or 18%. Mr. Goran said that would increase the cost of water purchased from Lavonia by about \$50,000 per year.

Consideration of investigating groundwater sources for Authority future water supply

Mr. Goran presented a proposal for groundwater research from Nutter and Associates at a total of \$112,500 for phase one research. Mr. Goran reminded the Board of the prior proposal received from Emory and Garrett totaling \$122,550. Mr. Goran emphasized that ground water research would be an investment in the Authority's future water supply, could lessen dependence on our current wholesale suppliers, and would be very beneficial as a negotiating tool. Mr. Goran recommended proceeding with the groundwater research with Emory and Garrett.

After some discussion, Mr. Justice requested a cost comparison for using groundwater sources versus building our own surface water treatment plant. The Board agreed to revisit this topic at the next meeting.

New Business

Discussion of potential customer retail rate increase

Mr. Goran presented several rate increase scenarios and asked the Board for suggestions for rate increase options.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to revisit this topic at the next meeting.

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran informed the Board that he would be attending the Georgia Association of Water Professionals Utility Executive Forum on Tuesday, February 28th and Wednesday, March 1st.

Members' Comments

None

Upcoming Meetings – March 20th and April 17th

The next Board meetings will be held on Monday, March 20th, 2023 and Monday, April 17th, 2023

Adjournment

Ms. Justice motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Haley seconded it. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Wade Carlton, Chairman

Holly McBrayer, Secretary