

# **Hart County Water and Sewer Authority**

## **Board of Directors Meeting March 16, 2020**

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in the Hart County Cooperative Extension Service Building. Chairman Wade Carlton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present were: Board Members Patti Brown, Larry Haley, Bennie Harper and Marvin Justice; Director Pat Goran; Legal Counsel Walter Gordon; Board Secretary/Treasurer Holly McBrayer; Hart County Board of Commissioners' Chairman Joey Dorsey and Vice Chairman Marshall Sayer; County Administrator Terrell Partain; Environmental Health Manager Lillie Sherman; and Hart County resident Jayson Nguyen.

### **Welcome**

### **Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Brown motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

### **Public Comments: remarks by invited guests**

Mr. Goran informed the Board of precautions HCWSA is taking to proactively reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19 while minimizing the disruption of normal business operations.

Ms. Sherman spoke about her concerns regarding the lack of safe drinking water in the Reed Creek area, including Crawford's Ferry. Ms. Sherman said due to small lot sizes some residents have little to no options if their well or septic systems fail due to state-mandated spacing between wells and septic tanks and absorption fields and has even had to turn people away from installing new wells. Ms. Sherman said a large portion of Hart County was at risk and it was critical to have a county wide public water system in the interest of public health.

Mr. Carlton asked if an Immediate Threat and Danger grant was a possible option. Mr. Goran stated that the maximum grant allowed was \$50,000 that would have to be matched with at least \$50,000 in HCWSA funds which would not come close to funding a project of that scale.

### **Approval of February 17<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes**

Ms. Brown motioned to approve the February 17<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes. Mr. Justice seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

### **Financial report**

Mr. Goran presented the financial report.

### **Old Business**

### **Review and discussion of Authority project prioritization and potential funding**

The Board discussed various funding options such as a property tax millage rate increase, SPLOST increase, special purpose property tax districts and customer water rate increases to support a GEFA loan to finance a large capital project for system expansion.

Mr. Goran stated that completing a county-wide water system would cost about \$75 million dollars and that using SPLOST funds solely at the current rate we receive them it would take nearly 150 years to complete.

Mr. Goran asked the Board Members for their thoughts about asking the Board of Commissioners for a property tax increase. Both Ms. Brown and Mr. Justice stated that they did not support an increase in property taxes.

#### **Request for water service – Hillcrest Circle “subdivision”**

No action was taken.

#### **2020 Community Development Block Grant**

Mr. Goran recommended two target areas for the \$750,000 grant being requested: Akins-Lunsford Road and Oak Park Lane and the Clay Brown Road area. He said that the estimated local matching funds required, including tap fee waivers for low to moderate income household, is \$319,400.

Ms. Brown motioned to authorize Mr. Carlton to sign the Letter of Financial Commitment. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Mr. Goran presented a cost proposal of not to exceed \$98,800 from EMI for detailed engineering services for the 2020 CDBG target areas. The Board discussed but took no action.

#### **Discussion of potential Reed Creek Highway subdivision**

Mr. Goran presented a revised cost proposal from Dodd Construction to extend the water line approximately 550’ beyond HN Ayers Road for an additional \$15,000. After some discussion, Mr. Harper motioned to proceed with the extension. The motion failed to receive a second.

#### **Outstanding requests for water service – poultry operations**

No action was taken.

#### **Eagle Grove School Road Area project**

Mr. Goran stated that the small project on Whispering Creek Trail was complete and that the Bethany-Bowersville Loop project was nearing completion. He said that once the 2018 CDBG final project area of Crossroads Circle and Will Bailey Road has been completed, Arrowood General Contracting would begin the Eagle Grove School Road project. Mr. Goran estimated construction to begin in May.

#### **2018 Community Development Block Grant project**

Mr. Goran stated that four of the five target areas had been completed and that the fifth area was scheduled to begin installation within the next week.

#### **New Business**

#### **Request for water service – Martin Dairy Road dairy operations**

Mr. Goran provided a cost estimate of \$70,007.40 assuming one 1½ inch meter and an 8-inch line. The Board agreed to revisit this topic at the next meeting.

## **Discussion of subdivision guidelines**

Mr. Goran asked for the Board's thoughts or opinions on this subject. After much discussion, the Board agreed to revisit this topic at the next meeting.

## **Director's Comments**

Mr. Goran informed the Board of a water request from Mr. TV Smith on Reed Creek Highway located about 2,000 feet beyond H N Ayers Road.

No action was taken.

## **Members' Comments**

Mr. Haley said that he had received two complaints about receiving bills late. He also said there was a hole at the corner of Byrum Cemetery Road and Rock Springs Road that needed to be filled in. Mr. Goran stated that bills were mailed in a timely manner and that he would follow up with the contractor on filling in the hole.

Mr. Carlton said that Stillwaters Road had been cleaned up and he also inquired about the accuracy of the radio read meters. Mr. Goran stated that procedures were in place to ensure accuracy.

## **Upcoming Meetings – Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> and Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

The next Board meetings will be held on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

## **Adjournment**

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

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Wade Carlton, Chairman

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Holly McBrayer, Secretary