

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors Meeting July 16, 2018

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on July 16th, 2018 in the Hart County Cooperative Extension Service Building. Chairman Wade Carlton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present were: Vice - Chairman Hugh Holland; Board Members Patti Brown and Larry Haley; Director Pat Goran; Legal Counsel Walter Gordon; Board Secretary/Treasurer Holly McBrayer; The Hartwell Sun Reporter Michael Isom; and Army Corp of Engineers Chief Ranger Sandy Campbell. Board Member Marvin Justice participated via phone.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Holland requested an amendment to the agenda to move item 7C before 7A. Mr. Holland motioned to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Public Comments; remarks by invited guests

None

Approval of June 18th regular meeting minutes

Mr. Holland motioned to approve the June 18th regular meeting minutes. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Financial report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report.

Mr. Goran informed the Board of the cost of the vehicle repair expenses for the current fiscal year. He stated that truck #1 has about 228,000 miles and continues to have engine problems. Mr. Holland stated that HCWSA funds should be used to purchase new equipment, such as a new truck. The Board advised Mr. Goran to research the state contract prices for vehicles and agreed to revisit this topic at the next meeting.

The Board discussed limiting the amount of time allowed for a customer's leak to be fixed before being locked off for non-payment. Mr. Goran stated that he will have a recommendation at the next meeting.

Old Business

Discussion of potential rate increase

Mr. Goran reminded the Board of BASF's request for a decrease in their water rates. After much discussion, the Board agreed to review the potential rate increase, possible rate options for BASF and other high-volume customers, and its effects at the next meeting. No further action was taken.

Request for water service – Mewborn Road, Eagle Grove School Road, Liberty Church Road poultry operations, residents

Mr. Goran reviewed the options for funding this potential project. After some discussion, the Board agreed to delay voting on all large projects until it is known if HCWSA will receive a 2018 Community Development Block Grant.

Request for water service – Price Chapel Road

Mr. Goran informed the Board that an eighth commitment letter had been received and reviewed the cost estimate. Mr. Holland motioned to have Arrowood General Contracting do the Price Chapel Road project provided that the cost not exceed the estimate provided. Mr. Justice seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0. Mr. Goran will update the Board at the next meeting.

Discussion of Authority Strategic business plan

Mr. Goran presented the Authority Strategic business plan draft for approval. Mr. Holland motioned to officially adopt the business plan. Mr. Justice seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Request for water service – Bowersville Highway (potential 900'+- extension)

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

New Business

Corp of Engineers' request for water service – Payne's Creek Campground

Mr. Goran informed the Board of the Army Corps of Engineers' recent request for water service on Payne's Creek Road. Mr. Goran reviewed the Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) cost estimates. He emphasized the rarity in receiving easements on Corp property and stated that this would be a good opportunity for system expansion into the more densely populated Reed Creek area.

Ms. Campbell spoke on behalf of the Corps. She informed the Board of the long term ongoing problems with the existing well at the Payne's Creek Road recreation area and their desire to connect to public water. She asked for confirmation that the Authority would consider providing water service. Ms. Campbell stated she would look into funding options for the Corps to contribute to the project.

Mr. Goran will follow up with Ms. Campbell and the Board will discuss this topic at the next meeting.

Recommendation revision to Minor Line Extension Policy and Procurement Policy

Mr. Goran explained that the two current capital spending procurement policies previously voted on by the Board were in conflict with each other. He suggested clarifying the procurement policy. No further action was taken.

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran informed the Board of his research into wholesale water rates, taking into account operation of HCWSA's two booster pump stations. He stated that water purchased from Hartwell that has to be pumped into the 1100' pressure zone effectively costs approximately \$2.12 per 1000 gallons, and that water purchased from Lavonia that has to be pumped into the 1100' pressure zone effectively costs approximately \$2.08 per 1000 gallons. Mr. Goran pointed out the benefits of completing waterline loops that would allow HCWSA to lower the amount of water pumped into the 1100' pressure zone, thereby reducing HCSWA's power costs.

Members' Comments

Mr. Holland questioned the status of the out-of-service tank on Royston Highway and asked Mr. Goran to provide a quote for demolition at the next meeting. Mr. Holland also questioned the possible use of an unoccupied office building owned by the County. Mr. Gordon stated he will discuss that with the Board of Commissioners and will have an answer at the next Authority meeting.

Upcoming Meetings – August 20th and September 17th

The next two regular Board meetings will be held on Monday August 20th, 2018 and Monday, September 17th, 2018.

Executive Session

Mr. Holland motioned to go into executive session. Ms. Brown seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Mr. Holland motioned to go out of executive session. Ms. Brown seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Mr. Holland motioned to compensate Mrs. McBrayer at pay grade 17 FY18 two years' experience effective immediately, and that future employee compensation increases as applicable be effective at the beginning of each fiscal year. Ms. Brown seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Adjournment

Mr. Holland motioned to adjourn and Ms. Brown seconded it. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Wade Carlton, Chairman

Holly McBrayer, Secretary