

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors Meeting July 20, 2020

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on July 20th, 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; Georgia State Representative Alan Powell; Hart County Board of Commissioners' Chairman Joey Dorsey; Caleb Musser; Hart County residents Diem Nguyen and Yolanda Ledesma; and The Hartwell Sun reporter Grayson Williams.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Carlton suggested reordering the agenda to move item 8A “water service for proposed subdivision at Mount Hebron Road – Walnut Drive” to the beginning of the agenda. Mr. Harper motioned to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Water service for proposed subdivision at Mount Hebron Road – Walnut Drive

Mr. Goran stated that he had reached out to Mr. Musser in February and then followed up with him in June regarding this potential subdivision and the EPD requirements for permitting a public water system. Mr. Goran stated that he had met with Mr. Powell, Mr. Musser, and Kenny Whitworth in July to discuss this further. Mr. Goran said it was his understanding that they intended to create a water system themselves as opposed to connecting to HCWSA since wells had already been drilled. Mr. Goran said that he was unaware if any flow testing or sustained yield testing had been done yet. Mr. Goran noted that Mr. Musser had indicated that he had reached out to some contractors outside of the Hart County area for a cost estimate to connect to the HCWSA system and that the estimates were prohibitively high. Mr. Goran stated that the estimate was not an accurate representation of local construction costs. Mr. Goran said that if Mr. Musser had reached out to HCWSA in a timely manner when he had been contacted in February, an accurate cost estimate could have been provided and a cost sharing agreement could have possibly been reached.

Mr. Musser stated that he was unaware of the required EPD Concurrence Letter from HCWSA therefore, he reached out to a private well company to install and operate a small water system. Mr. Musser cited the Hart County ordinance and stated that the subdivision was more than 1,000 feet away from the nearest HCWSA line. Mr. Musser stated that he had become aware of the EPD regulations in June and requested the Concurrence Letter at that time, which is required if a new privately-owned public water system was proposed within one mile of an existing governmentally-owned public water system. Mr. Musser said that he had received a permit to drill wells from EPD. Mr. Musser stated that when he learned of the required Concurrence Letter, he called Mr. Goran who informed him that the Board must review the request prior to him preparing the letter. Mr. Musser stated that they planned to develop the lots because of a need in the community and that the property taxes received by the county, which Mr. Musser estimated to be about \$100,000 annually, would be beneficial and that there was a local builder interested in the lots.

Mr. Carlton said that he would have preferred notification beforehand because there would have been an opportunity to cost share and remove the burden of water system maintenance from the developers.

Mr. Powell stated that he was in attendance because Mr. Musser asked him to be at the meeting as a show of support for this request.

Mr. Haley motioned to grant the Concurrence Letter. Mr. Carlton seconded the motion which passed 4 – 1 with Mr. Justice opposed.

Public Comments: remarks by invited guests

None

Approval of June 15th regular meeting minutes

Mr. Haley motioned to approve the June 15th regular meeting minutes. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Financial report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report. He noted the negative cash flow for the month of June and explained that the 2018 CDBG contractor invoice had been paid using Authority funds, but would be reimbursed with either SPLOST or grant funds later. Mr. Goran also noted the large amount of locates in June, the amount of large project locate requests, and the amount of time involved. Additionally, Mr. Goran stated that the Field Technician had been out for 9 days.

Old Business

2018 Community Development Block Grant project

Mr. Goran informed the Board that the 2018 CDBG project was complete.

Eagle Grove School Road Area project

Mr. Goran stated that construction had begun. He added that the Reed Creek Highway subdivision project main line had been installed and new line water testing samples had been taken.

Request for water service – 3685 Elberton Highway

Ms. Nguyen requested water service for Elberton Highway citing poor water quality at her residence. She stated she also owned two chicken houses.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to send out commitment letters to property owners on Elberton Highway, Cedar Creek Circle, Nancy Hart School Road, and Hickory Crossing Road and to revisit this request at the next meeting.

New Business

Request for water service – Still Waters Road poultry operations

Mr. Goran informed the Board that he had been unable to reach the requesting poultry farmer prior to the meeting. Mr. Goran recommend proceeding with the project contingent on receiving a signed commitment letter. No action was taken.

Request for water service – Bowersville Highway poultry operations

Mr. Goran presented a cost estimate for extending the existing water line to accommodate the requesting poultry farmer. Mr. Goran stated that the poultry farmer had verbally committed to purchasing 1 million gallons a year. He recommended proceeding with the project contingent on receiving a signed commitment letter for the 1 million gallons per year.

Mr. Justice motioned to proceed with the Bowersville Hwy extension to said poultry farmer contingent upon receiving a signed commitment letter for 1 million gallons per year. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran informed the Board of a water request for a portion of McCurry Road. The Board agreed to send out commitment letters to the area.

Mr. Goran informed the Board of a water service request for Haven Drive, which is a private road off of Stovall Circle. Mr. Goran reminded the Board that it had reviewed a similar request several years ago but had decided not to pursue it because it likely would have required condemnation. After some discussion, Mr. Carlton asked that Mr. Goran research the past request for water service and to revisit this request at the next meeting.

Members' Comments

Mr. Haley shared a resident's concern about valve placement. He also suggested flushing hydrants.

Upcoming Meetings – Monday, August 17th and Monday, September 21st

The next Board meetings will be held Monday, August 17th, 2020 and Monday, September 21st, 2020.

Adjournment

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

Wade Carlton, Chairman

Holly McBrayer, Secretary