

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors Meeting August 21, 2023

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on August 21st, 2023, 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; Hart County Commission Chairman Marshall Sayer; Hart County residents Eric Sanders and Alex Vickery.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Ms. York motioned to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of item 8c), Discussion of Royston Highway bridge project. Mr. Justice seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Public Comments: remarks by invited guests

None

Approval of June 19th regular meeting minutes

Mr. Harper motioned to approve the June 19th regular meeting minutes. Mr. Justice seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Financial report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report.

Old Business

Request for water service – Cedar Creek Circle area possibly including Moore Road, Stephen Johnson Road

No action was taken.

Will Bailey Road – Mt Olivet Road connector project

Mr. Goran informed the Board that EMI was continuing to do the necessary fieldwork for this project.

Consideration of Georgia Environmental Finance Authority loan with principal forgiveness

Mr. Goran reminded the Board that HCWSA's proposed approximately \$5,000,000 project had qualified for a loan from GEFA at a yet to be determined percentage of principal forgiveness. He stated that HCWSA has yet to hear what the percentage of principal forgiveness would be.

New Business

Request for water service – Maxwell Mill Road

Mr. Vickery expressed his desire to connect to HCWSA's system. Options were discussed including HCWSA setting a meter on Liberty Church Road which would require him to get permission from his neighbor to run his service line across their property. The other option would be for HCWSA to extend its water line from Liberty Church Road some distance down Maxwell Mill Road. No action was taken.

Eric Sanders' request for water service – Beacon Light Road poultry operations

Mr. Sanders expressed his desire to use HCWSA-provided water for his poultry operations and described the issues he was having with his wells. Mr. Goran briefly reviewed two estimates he had prepared to extend HCWSA's line from the Fred King Road intersection to get to Mr. Sanders' property using either 6" or 8" pipe. Mr. Goran agreed to provide Mr. Sanders commitment letters for him to discuss with nearby property owners.

Discussion of Royston Highway bridge project

Mr. Goran handed out documents related to the conflict between HCWSA's existing 8" water line on Akin-Lunsford Road and the storm drain that was recently installed by the bridge contractor under Akin-Lunsford Road. Mr. Goran explained that this conflict was not delaying the paving of Royston Highway and the reopening of the bridge to traffic. He explained that at the time the bridge project was bid the water line had not yet been installed but when the contractor mobilized on site that the water line was in place. He said that HCWSA's Field Technician had marked the location of the line numerous times with blue paint. He explained that if HCWSA had to lower our line we would have customers out of service and would have to obtain bacteriological samples and issue a boil water advisory for affected customers. He said his preferred option would be for the storm drain to be lowered and that he had discussed that with GDOT representatives Friday. There was discussion about minimum burial depths for water lines, the GDOT permitting process and what rights HCWSA has under its GDOT permit. Ms. Higginbotham said that the bridge contractor had recently sent HCWSA a step 1 escalation letter, that HCWSA has ten days to respond and that after twenty days damages could begin accruing. It was agreed that Mr. Goran would quickly pursue options with the bridge contractor and GDOT to resolve the conflict.

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran reminded the Board that Holly Mathis had resigned effective August 4. He stated that the position had been advertised in the Hartwell Sun and various industry web sites and was posted on HCWSA's web site. He said that he had interviewed several candidates and recommended that HCWSA extend an offer to Brenda Roper at \$20.00 per hour as she was the most qualified candidate, although he felt she was worth more than that. After some discussion the Board suggested Mr. Goran check her references and if they were acceptable to proceed with the hiring process.

Mr. Goran told the Board that Royston was interested in selling us more water than they have in the past since they are no longer selling water to Frankin Springs, and both of their wells are now back on line. The Board concurred.

Mr. Goran said that HCSWA's Field Technician had asked to receive pay in lieu of taking paid vacation. Mr. Sayer indicated that Hart County had recently amended their policy to allow employees to receive up to two weeks pay in lieu of taking vacation. After some discussion the Board agreed to amend its policy to match the County's.

Members' Comments - none

Upcoming Meetings – September 18th and October 16th

Adjournment

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

Wade Carlton, Chairman

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