

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority

Board of Directors Meeting September 20, 2021

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on September 20th, 2021, 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 Walter Gordon; Board Secretary/Treasurer Holly McBrayer; Hart County resident Angie McGee.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Goran suggested moving item 8A “Proposed fiscal year 2022 operating budget” to the end of new business.

Ms. York motioned to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Justice seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Public Comments: remarks by invited guests

None

Approval of August 16th regular meeting minutes

Ms. York motioned to approve the August 16th regular meeting minutes. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Financial report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report.

Old Business

2020 Community Development Block Grant

Mr. Goran informed the Board that the start of construction would likely be delayed due to pipe availability issues.

Review of 2022 Community Development Block Grant target area, including Mount Olivet Road, Cleveland Mill Road, Pineview Lane, Oaktree Lane, Reno Drive

Mr. Goran informed the Board that Ms. Rachelene Johnson was willing to assist in obtaining income surveys for the proposed 2022 CDBG target area.

Discussion of revised cost estimate – Rosewood Circle project

Mr. Goran presented a revised cost estimate due to the increase in supply prices. After a brief discussion, Ms. York motioned to proceed with installing pipe the entire length of Rosewood Circle based on the new cost estimate of \$34,573 and make the necessary adjustments to the SPLOST funds sheet. Mr. Justice seconded the motion which passed 4 – 1 as Mr. Haley opposed.

Request for water service – Bowman Highway near Mewborn Road

Mr. Goran presented two cost estimates – one to extend to the nearest poultry operation and the second to get to both nearby poultry operations. Mr. Goran stated that he had spoken with each operator individually but neither had committed verbally or otherwise to buy any amount of water at this point. Mr. Goran stated that he would reach out to each operator again.

No action taken.

New Business

Request for Water Service – Teasley Cove, remainder of Teasley Lane

Mr. Goran presented a cost estimate of \$37,890.75 and stated that 6 signed commitment letters had been received.

The Board agreed to discuss this request at the next meeting.

Fiscal year 2021 audit engagement letter

Mr. Goran presented the FY21 audit engagement letter received from Burch, Crooms and Company which included a cost estimate of \$29,500. Ms. York motioned to authorize Mr. Carlton and Mr. Goran to sign the engagement letter on the Authority's behalf. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Proposed fiscal year 2022 operating budget

Mr. Goran presented the proposed FY22 fiscal operating budget. He noted key changes compared to the previous fiscal year's budget. After a brief discussion, Ms. York motioned to accept the proposed budget as presented. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 5 -0.

Mr. Goran explained the County's plans to disburse the American Rescue Plan funds it had received as bonuses to their employees per federal guidelines; however, these funds did not extend to the Authority. Mr. Goran recommended a permanent 96 cent hourly increase to hourly employees in lieu of any COVID relief funds and also the standard 2.5% cost of living raise effective on October 1st, 2021, the start of the new fiscal year. Mr. Goran also explained that historically the County has given employees annual 2.5 % cost of living raises plus an additional 2.5% years of service increase every other year. He also mentioned that the Authority has typically only given 2.5% cost of living adjustments in the past.

Ms. York motioned to permanently increase the hourly employees pay rates by 96 cents per hour plus a 2.5% cost of living raise and a 2.5% cost of living increase and a 2.5% years of service increase to salaried employees with all to go into effect October 1, 2021. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Mr. Gordon discussed potentially increasing his retainer fee to \$1,000 per month not to exceed \$12,000 per year. He stated he would discuss further with Mr. Goran.

Director's Comments

None

Members' Comments

None

Upcoming Meetings –Monday, October 18th, 2021, and Monday, November 15th, 2021

The next Board meetings will be held Monday, October 18th, 2021, and Monday, November 15th, 2021, at the Authority's office.

Adjournment

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

Wade Carlton, Chairman

Holly McBrayer, Secretary