

# **Hart County Water and Sewer Authority**

## **Board of Directors Meeting September 21, 2020**

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on September 21<sup>st</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; and Board Secretary/Treasurer Holly McBrayer.

### **Welcome**

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

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

None

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

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

### **Financial report**

Mr. Goran presented the financial report. Mr. Carlton suggested making additional deposits into the Georgia Fund 1 account due to its advantageous interest rate.

### **Old Business**

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

Mr. Goran informed the Board that water testing had been completed and all poultry operations were ready to connect. He added that there were two more residential taps to complete. Mr. Goran estimated spending just over \$400,000 on the project. Mr. Carlton asked for a final cost recap at the next meeting.

#### **Request for water service – Elberton Highway poultry operation and area residences**

The Board agreed to revisit this item at the next meeting.

#### **Request for water service – Haven Drive**

Mr. Goran said that he had attempted to reach the property owner who had not responded to inquiries several years ago about granting an easement via cell phone and text message, but had not gotten a response. After some discussion, the Board asked Mr. Goran to send a certified letter to this property owner and revisit this item at the next meeting.

#### **Request for water service – Bio Church Road/McCurry Road**

The Board agreed to revisit this item at the next meeting.

## **New Business**

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

Mr. Goran stated that HCWSA in conjunction with Hart County had been awarded a 2020 CDBG grant for \$750,000. He added that the HCWSA local fund match is approximately \$217,000. Mr. Goran stated that there are two target areas: Akins Lunsford Road / Oak Park Lane and the Clay Brown Road area. The Board also discussed potential loops outside the target areas that would provide hydraulic benefits and/or eliminate dead end lines such as on Clay Brown Road.

Mr. Carlton motioned to authorize Mr. Goran and Ms. McBrayer to accept the EMI proposal for detailed engineering contingent on Hart County receiving the official grant award package. Mr. Justice seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

### **Annual Review of Board Members' potential conflicts of interest**

Mr. Goran asked that each Board member complete, sign and return the annual potential conflict of interest forms.

### **Fiscal year 2020 audit engagement letter**

Mr. Goran presented the audit engagement letter which included a cost estimate of \$29,500.

Ms. Brown motioned to authorize Mr. Carlton and Mr. Goran to sign the audit engagement letter. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

### **Proposed fiscal year 2021 operating budget**

Mr. Goran presented the proposed FY21 operating budget. He noted the increase to salaries/wages to allow for a 2.5% cost of living increase and pointed out other significant changes from the approved FY20 budget. After some discussion, Mr. Haley motioned to approve the proposed budget with no changes. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

### **Review and discussion of Authority rates and policies**

Mr. Goran noted that HCWSA's last rate increase became effective on October 1, 2018. He added that most water systems increase rates by small amounts annually to avoid significant increases to customers, to adjust for increasing operational costs and to set aside funds for upgrading and replacing aging infrastructure. After some discussion, Mr. Carlton asked for a comparison of our rates with other surrounding communities for the next meeting.

### **Director's Comments**

Mr. Goran informed the Board that a new Field Technician had been hired.

Mr. Goran informed the Board that the close out meeting for the 2018 CDBG grant was scheduled for Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. He added that HCWSA received approximately \$703,000 of the \$750,000 grant funds available.

## **Members' Comments**

Mr. Haley questioned if the Adamstown Road subdivision project had been approved by the HCWSA Board. Mr. Goran affirmed that it had been approved at the June 16<sup>th</sup> regular Board meeting.

## **Upcoming Meetings –Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> and Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**

The next Board meetings will be held Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and Monday, November 16<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