

# **Hart County Water and Sewer Authority**

## **Board of Directors Meeting October 16, 2023**

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on October 16, 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 Bennie Harper and Marvin Justice, Director Pat Goran, Legal Counsel Kim Higginbotham, Office Manager Brenda Roper, and several members of the public. Board Members Larry Haley and Patti York were absent.

### **Welcome**

### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Harper motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Justice seconded the motion and it passed 3 – 0.

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

Bobby Vickery, Carolyn Vickery, Kevin Vickery, Rachelene Johnson, Johnny & Monica Foster, Tom Poole, Harvey David and Tracee David spoke in support of getting water service on Beacon Light Road between Fred King Road and Morris Road.

Mr. Goran explained that the project the Board approved several months ago calls for installing a water line on Beacon Light Road from the intersection of Morris Road going up Beacon Light Road to Mount Olivet Road and then across Mount Olivet Road to Fred King Road, but not going from the Morris Road intersection toward Fred King Road.

Alaina and Chris LaCount requested water service for the rental homes she has at 4505 and 4507 Bowersville Highway as she is having issues with the well that currently serves the homes. Mr. Carlton suggested reaching out to Joe Sanders to see if he would be interested in having meters installed for his trailers. Mr. Carlton also commented that the simplest thing to do would be to tap the existing line at the other end of Ms. LaCount's property and for her to run service lines to the homes. Mr. Goran also suggested that she reach out to the County Health Department and the County Administrator to see what development could take place in the future.

There was discussion related to the above requests about canvassing the areas to see who was interested and possibly sending out commitment letters later to see if the projects were feasible.

### **Approval of September 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes**

Mr. Justice motioned to approve the September 18, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 3 – 0.

### **Financial report**

Mr. Goran presented the financial report.

## **Old Business**

### **Request for water service – Beacon Light Road**

Since the Will Bailey Road – Mount Olivet Road connector project will be out for bids soon, the Board discussed the possibility of asking the low bidder on that project if they would be willing to extend the line on Beacon Light Road as a change order to the bid project.

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

No action was taken.

### **Will Bailey Road – Mount Olivet Road connector project**

Mr. Goran informed the Board that EMI was continuing to do the necessary fieldwork and that he had not received the bid drawings to review yet.

### **Request for water service - Maxwell Mill Road**

Mr. Goran explained that he had talked to the requestor and told him it was unlikely that the Board would vote to do this project since it was for only one home and did not meet the Board's financial criteria. He understood.

### **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, and that he had been told it would qualify for 50% principal forgiveness.

There was a brief discussion about the proposed scope of the project.

### **City of Hartwell proposed wholesale price increase effective 01/01/2024**

Mr. Goran explained that he had received an email from the Hartwell City Manager indicating that Hartwell was planning to increase their price from \$1.94 to \$2.29 per thousand gallons on January 1, 2024. The consensus of the Board was to accept this higher rate.

## **New Business**

### **Director's Comments**

Mr. Goran asked the Board if they were interested in asking Hart County to consider raising the property tax rate by ½ to 1 mil and for those proceeds to be given only to the HCWSA. Ms. Higginbotham wasn't sure if that could be done under Georgia law.

### **Members' Comments – none**

### **Upcoming Meetings –November 20<sup>th</sup> (week of Thanksgiving), December 18<sup>th</sup>**

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Justice motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Harper seconded. The motion passed 3 - 0.

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Wade Carlton, Chairman

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