

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority

Board of Directors Meeting November 16, 2020

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on November 16th, 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 York, Larry Haley, Bennie Harper and Marvin Justice; Director Pat Goran; Legal Counsel Walter Gordon; and Board Secretary/Treasurer Holly McBrayer; and Hart County residents Brian Canady, Bobby Carson, Charles Corbett, Peggy Cromer, Dlyan Hickey, Angie Hickey, Marvin Hill, Wesley Hill, Alton Johnson, and Rachelene Johnson.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments: remarks by invited guests

Mrs. Johnson stated that she and her neighbors were continuing to collect signed commitment letters in an effort to meet HCWSA's committed customer guidelines. After some discussion, the Board agreed to revisit this request at the next meeting.

Approval of October 19th regular meeting minutes

Mr. Haley motioned to approve the October 19th regular meeting minutes. Ms. York seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0

Financial report

Mr. Goran discussed the structure density map displayed and stated that it was a better representation than a population density map since the population density map was based on people's primary residence and that there were many secondary homes located in Hart County. He explained that the \$7,500 per committed customer guideline was designed many years ago primarily to deter unwise projects. Mr. Goran also stated that many of the densely populated areas already had access to HCWSA's water system. He suggested that the Board become more proactive, utilize the strategic plan, and consider long term objectives while continuing to use available funds wisely. Mr. Goran added that to get to the more densely populated areas there will likely be parts of the county where lines would have to pass through where it may not be possible to meet the \$7,500 per committed customer guideline due to the current lack of homes and large property sizes. Mr. Goran said that cost and committed customer count should not be the only criteria to be considered and that other benefits such as system expansion, long-term hydraulic benefits and HCWSA's overall mission statement are also important reasons to approve a project.

Mr. Haley stated that in his opinion the Authority should increase its residential tap fee to \$2000.

Mr. Goran then presented the financial report.

Old Business

Request for Water Service – Mount Olivet Road between Fred King Road and Cleveland Mill Road, including Pineview Lane

Mr. Goran presented a cost estimate of \$444,742.10 that would require 59 residential customer commitment letters to meet the \$7,500 cost per committed customer guideline. He stated that 30 had been received to date.

Mr. Carlton suggested when determining the number of commitment letters needed to base the cost estimate on 6" pipe and when a larger pipe size was recommended by HCWSA staff the Authority could absorb that cost.

In an effort of transparency, Ms. York stated that her father owned rental property on Mt. Olivet Road. Mr. Gordon stated that he felt her disclosure was appropriate.

Request for water service – Haven Drive

Mr. Goran stated that three verbal commitments had been received, however the individual that owns parcels on both sides of, and including, the private road was not inclined to voluntarily grant an easement to the Authority. Mr. Goran stated that in his opinion one person should not be able to prevent other people's access to safe, clean drinking water and better fire protection, and supported the condemnation in the event that enough commitment letters were received to meet the \$7,500 per committed customer guideline.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to remove this request from future meetings.

2020 Community Development Block Grant

Mr. Goran informed the Board that EMI's field work had started and the project was likely a few months away from being ready to bid.

New Business

None

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran stated that work on the FY20 financial audit continued.

Mr. Goran suggested getting three Purchasing Cards, one for each employee, through Pinnacle Bank and noted that there were no fees to do so. After some discussion, the Board consensus was to proceed with one Purchasing Card at this time.

Members' Comments

None

Upcoming Meetings – Monday, December 21st and Thursday, January 21st, 2020

The next Board meetings will be held Monday, December 21st, 2020 and Thursday, January 21st, 2021 due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Adjournment

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

Wade Carlton, Chairman

Holly McBrayer, Secretary