Hart County Water and Sewer Authority
Board of Directors Meeting May 18, 2026

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on May 18, 2026, in the Hart County Cooperative Extension Service Building. Chairman Wade Carlton called the meeting to order. Present were Board Members Patti York, Larry Haley, Marvin Justice and Bennie Harper. Also present were Legal Counsel Kim Higginbotham, Director Pat Goran, and many local residents.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Carlton suggested the agenda be amended to include personnel and litigation under Executive Session. Ms. York made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of April 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Haley made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2026 Board meeting. Mr. Justice seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Several local residents made comments.

Financial Report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report.

Old Business

University of Georgia Archway study for constructing new surface water treatment plant

No action was taken.

Reed Creek area expansion project update

No action was taken.

Consideration of partnering with City of Lavonia – surface water treatment plant

No action was taken.

Discussion of Authority's wholesale water purchase arrangement with Hartwell

No action was taken.

New Business - none

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran had no comments.

Members' Comments

Mr. Haley, Ms. York and Mr. Justice made comments.

Upcoming Meetings

It was agreed the next meetings would be held on June 15th and July 20th.

Ms. York made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation. Mr. Haley provided a second. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session

All five Board Members were present in Executive Session plus Ms. Higginbotham and Mr. Goran. Ms. York moved to exit Executive Session and reconvene the Regular Meeting. Mr. Justice provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

Regular Meeting

Ms. York made a motion to ask for Karen Neal's resignation and absent that, to terminate her employment with the Authority. Mr. Harper seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1 with Mr. Justice voting against.

Adjournment

Mr. Harper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. York seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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Wade Carlton, Chairman