

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors Meeting May 19, 2025

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on May 19, 2025, in the Hart County Cooperative Extension Service Building. Chairman Wade Carlton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Vice Chair Patti York, Board Members Larry Haley, Bennie Harper with Marvin Justice participating by phone. Also present were Legal Counsel Kim Higginbotham, Director Pat Goran, Office Manager Karen Neal, Hartwell Sun Editor Rose Scoggins and residents Nancy Ferenchak, Ray Dunlap and Lane Harper.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Ms. York made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Haley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of April 21, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Ms. York made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2025 Board meeting. Mr. Haley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of April 29, 2025 Work Session Minutes

Ms. York made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2025 work session meeting. Mr. Haley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Ms. Ferenchak requested an update to the Reed Creek expansion project. Mr. Goran stated the job is close to being bid out. Ms. Ferenchak asked if the construction pricing for a tap is still \$1,575.00, and Mr. Goran said at this time the tap fee is the same. Mr. Dunlap asked about other utility work potentially going on in the area, but Mr. Goran stated we do not have information on other utility projects in the area.

Mr. Lane Harper told the Board of his desire to tap into Authority water due to the poor water quality of his well on Mt. Olivet Road. Mr. Lane Harper shared that despite a filtration system, the water still smells of sulfur and his appliances are negatively affected. He also stated he has spoken with nearby residents on Fiddlers Drive that are also interested in Authority water for the same reasons. Mr. Lane Harper requested the Board consider extending the current construction project to include this area.

Financial Report

Mr. Goran provided the financial report. Mr. Goran stated that financials are skewed this month due to some late payments to vendors. Mr. Goran stated the Authority is back on track. Mr. Carlton asked for an update at the next meeting on how to avoid this in the future. Mr. Goran shared the current HCWSA

Funds and SPLOST Funds update. Mr. Goran shared the master meter reading data and stated more water will need to be run through the flushing meters, as is typical as temperatures rise.

Old Business

Request for Water Service – Tree Farm Road

Mr. Goran stated the EPD did confirm that every dwelling requires an individual meter. Mr. Beck had previously requested the Authority pay for a for-profit project to install water to his rental homes. Ms. York made a motion to provide service to Mr. Beck's rental homes if he pays all costs. Mr. Justice seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Haley voting against.

Request for water service – Bio Church Road / McCurry Road

Mr. Goran stated that commitment letters have not yet been distributed due to workload, but Mr. Carlton stated he did not feel there are not enough people in the area to support the cost of the construction. After a brief discussion, Mr. Goran stated the letters would go out soon.

Discussion of Pursuing Groundwater

Mr. Goran updated the Board on recent discussions with landowners of potential sites where the Authority would like to search for water. Mr. Goran noted that a few people declined to discuss the use of their land, but that he has an appointment tomorrow with another landowner and additional discussions will be scheduled.

Reed Creek Area Expansion Project

Mr. Goran stated this project would be put out for bids in the next two weeks and reminded the Board that the project bids are split between materials and construction.

Will Bailey Road – Morris Road – Beacon Light Road – Mount Olivet Road Project including consideration of extending onto side roads

Mr. Goran stated homeowners on Pineview Lane have signed the necessary number of commitment letters to meet the Board's criteria and recommended the Board to vote to approve moving forward. Mr. Justice made a motion to do so. Mr. Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Goran stated that construction is wrapping up on Holly Hills Drive. Mr. Goran stated construction would move to Mt. Olivet Road beginning at the Beacon Light Road intersection. Mr. Haley stated that piles of dirt from excavation need to be removed. Mr. Goran stated he would speak with the contractor.

Discussion of Authority's wholesale water purchase arrangement with Hartwell

After discussion, Mr. Carlton asked Mr. Goran and Ms. Higginbotham to review the counterproposals before forwarding to Board Members for additional comments.

Consideration of customer retail rate increase

After a brief discussion, the Board decided to wait until a wholesale water agreement with Hartwell is in place.

Damaged fire hydrant repair discussion

Mr. Goran stated he has received a list from John Boudway but has not had the chance to discuss it with him yet.

New Business

Request for water service – Tahoe Drive / Tahoe Court

Commitment letters were mailed, but the response was less than desired. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hart have requested more time to speak with every homeowner before approaching the Board again.

Discussion of installing water lines on private roads

No motions were made after several minutes of discussion.

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran recommended that the Authority apply now for a greater allocation of Hartwell Lake water given the lengthy approval process. The Board Members agreed. Mr. Goran also shared the Authority now has over 3,100 active customers.

Members' Comments

Ms. York shared the UGA Archway Program is looking for an engineering project and reached out to the Authority for any ideas. Ms. York suggested they could design a future water treatment facility. Ms. York stressed there is no cost to us. Mr. Carlton asked Ms. York to follow up with UGA Archway and ask for more details.

Mr. Haley stated he thought the Authority would complete the Mt. Olivet stretch of road before moving on to side streets like Pineview. Mr. Goran stated Pineview would only take a few days and feels we should move forward while the contractor is in that area.

Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Carlton announced the next meeting dates would be June 16th and July 21st. There were no objections.

Adjournment

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

Wade Carlton, Chairman

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