

# **Hart County Water and Sewer Authority**

## **Board of Directors Meeting December 15, 2025**

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on December 15, 2025, 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, Office Manager Karen Neal, Hartwell Sun Editor Rose Scoggins and many local residents.

### **Welcome**

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **Approval of November 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Haley made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2025 Board meeting. Mr. Justice seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

Nancy Feranchek of the Raindrop Circle area asked the Board when residents could expect the Reed Creek Highway project to begin, and which roads will be completed first. Mr. Goran stated he expected construction to begin early to mid-January, but the sequence of construction for the current project scope likely will not be known until the contractor reaches Reed Creek School Road. Several residents from Hatton Ford Road, McIsbury Court, Old Andersonville Road (beyond the scope of the currently awarded project), Harbor Point and Hidden Point Road spoke of the challenges obtaining a sufficient supply of clean water and requested their neighborhoods be added to the upcoming Reed Creek Highway project. Mr. Carlton stated the Board would need time to digest the estimates for each road and would address the requests at a later date.

### **Financial Report**

Mr. Goran provided the financial report noting that SPLOST funds are down due to the Martin Dairy Road/Union Hill Church Road/Carrie Craft Road project having been moved to SPLOST funds from HCWSA funds. He also noted HCWSA funds are down due to the November approval of the Curt Bailey Road and Bowersville Highway projects. He noted that system usage and flushing gallons were both down due to cooler temperatures. Finally, Mr. Goran stated all late invoices from the Hart County Board of Commissioners and RevSpring have been received now.

## **Old Business**

### **Reed Creek area expansion project update and discussion of how to prioritize requests for service outside current project scope**

Mr. Goran shared multiple estimates for potentially adding additional roads to the Reed Creek Highway expansion. Mr. Goran provided context for each estimate. Community residents from multiple areas asked when the Board might make a decision which roads would be added to the current construction scope. Several people indicated they had spent a lot of time collecting commitment letters to determine the level of interest on multiple roads and were frustrated the Board did not vote or even provide a timeframe for prioritizing which requests for expansion would be approved. Mr. Haley stated that any vote will likely not be held until March of 2026 and perhaps later than that.

Additionally, Mr. Goran shared that he has begun the process of applying for a second GEFA loan for this area. He suggested applying for ten million dollars but noted that HCWSA is not required to take any or all of it if GEFA approves the request. Mr. Goran pointed out the amount of principal forgiveness, if any, may not be known for some time, but he is hopeful it would be at least as much or more than the current approved loan.

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

Mr. Goran stated he believes the engineering consultant who suggested looking at building a new water treatment facility for Lavonia using Hurricane Helene damage funding may not be correct in their assessment the funds can be used for this purpose. Separately, Mr. Goran stated he believes HWCSA should continue partnership discussions with the City of Lavonia in 2026.

### **Discussion of Authority's wholesale water purchase arrangement with Hartwell**

Mr. Goran noted that nothing has changed over the last few months. He stated that he was not aware of the entire City Council ever having voted on any pricing for the Authority. He pointed out that with three new City Council members, he hopes to see progress soon.

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

Mr. Goran reviewed the recent virtual meeting with UGA Archway engineering students. Mr. Goran shared the three options for both the treatment process and intake locations presented by the students for a future Authority surface water treatment plant. Mr. Goran stated that when the meeting materials are received and distributed to Board members, the Board must choose which options they want the students to move forward with no later than January 9, 2026. Mr. Goran shared he feels the UGA Archway estimates seem to be on the low side.

## **New Business**

### **Request for water service – Reno Drive, Lucas Road**

Mr. Goran stated that commitment letters were distributed to residents in the Reno Drive/Lucas Road neighborhood. He shared that only seven commitments were received against a \$185,000 construction estimate and does not believe any additional commitments will be forthcoming. The Board declined to move forward on this matter.

### **Director's Comments**

Mr. Goran shared that Arrowood General Contracting's subcontractor had attempted to directional drill under the Union Hill Church Road stream but was unsuccessful due to extremely hard rock. Mr. Goran said he had looked at attaching the waterline to the existing bridge but does not believe GDOT would allow that since the bridge is scheduled to be replaced in the near future. As an alternative, Mr. Goran stated it may be possible to install self-supporting ductile iron piping with restrained joints by elbowing up from the streambank at a 45° angle, crossing the stream with horizontal pipe and elbowing back down on the other side. Mr. Goran will update the Board when he has more information. Mr. Goran then stated that until a resolution is found, HCWSA's contractor has moved on to the Curt Bailey Road project.

### **Members' Comments**

Mr. Carlton, Ms. York and Mr. Harper wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Mr. Haley stated there are a few pieces of pipe from the Mt. Olivet project that have not yet been collected and asked Mr. Goran to address this with HCWSA's contractor. Mr. Justice again stated his belief that HCWSA should have its own water treatment facility or partner with someone. He also stated he would like the materials from the Archway meeting to be made available to each Board Member. Mr. Justice closed by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2026.

### **Adjournment**

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

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Wade Carlton, Chairman