

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority

Board of Directors Meeting February 19, 2024

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on February 19, 2024, in the Hart County Cooperative Extension Service Building. Chairman Wade Carlton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present were Board Members Larry Haley, Bennie Harper and Patti York, Director Pat Goran, Legal Counsel Kim Higginbotham, resident Rachelene Johnson, and Hartwell Sun reporter Rachel Black. Board Member Marvin Justice participated via phone.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Higginbotham requested that an Executive Session be added for litigation. Ms. York motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

Public Comments, remarks by invited guests

Ms. Johnson announced that she has applied to serve on the Authority Board of Directors.

Approval of January 11, 2024 regular meeting minutes

Mrs. York motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

Financial report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report and said that \$350,000 had been transferred from the Pinnacle operating account to the Georgia Fund 1 account since the last meeting.

Mr. Haley asked if we could reduce the amount of gallons we flush onto the ground and Mr. Carlton inquired about chlorine injection systems. Mr. Goran replied that we are required to maintain chlorine residual in all our lines and we flush a very small percentage of what we buy, and expressed concerns with chlorine injection as that can lead to higher levels of disinfection byproducts.

Old Business Mr. Justice joined the meeting at this point.

Will Bailey Road – Mount Olivet Road connector project

Mr. Goran reviewed EMI's recommendation based on the reduced scope re-bids received February 15. After some discussion, Mr. Justice motioned to award the contract to Arrowood General Contracting and for Mr. Goran to sign the necessary paperwork. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Request for water service – Beacon Light Road

Previously discussed under prior agenda item.

Request for water service – Bowman Highway poultry operations

Mr. Goran told the Board that EMI is working on the GDOT permit for this project.

Approval to apply for five-year Georgia Environmental Finance Authority loan with 50% principal forgiveness

Mr. Goran mentioned that as part of GEFA's requirements the Authority solicited Requests for Qualifications from consultants to provide the engineering services for this project, and that we received three responses. He further stated that these proposals would have to be reviewed and a decision made as to the company we would use. He also reminded the Board that the GEFA funding would not allow us to provide water to the entire geographical scope of the environmental review area and that decisions will have to be made about which areas will be served with the funds available.

After some discussion, Mr. Harper motioned to apply for a five-year loan with 50% principal forgiveness. Mr. Justice seconded the motion which passed 4-1 with Mr. Haley voting against.

New Business

Fiscal Year 2023 audit

Mr. Goran briefly reviewed the audit.

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran said that the employee he hired as Office Manager in January worked only one day before resigning. He went on to say that he had extended an offer to Karen Neal to become Office Manager which she had accepted and that she would be starting February 21. He explained that Holly Mathis was continuing to assist the Authority remotely.

Mr. Goran said that he was talking with a small Hart County company about the possibility of them installing new services and doing repairs.

Mr. Goran asked for some clarification on the applicability of the tap payment plan for new residential service installations and some discussion ensued.

Members' Comments

Ms. York mentioned there was a depression in the ground where the water line had been installed several years ago near Bethany Baptist Church.

Upcoming Meetings – March 18th, April 15th

Ms. York motioned to go into Executive Session. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Mr. Harper motioned to exit Executive Session. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 5-0.

Adjournment

Mr. Harper motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Haley seconded. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Wade Carlton, Chairman