

# **Hart County Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors Meeting April 15, 2024**

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on April 15, 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, Marvin Justice and Patti York, Director Pat Goran, Office Manager Karen Neal, Legal Counsel Kim Higginbotham, Mayor John Smith of Bowersville, Julie Mouchet and Rachelene Johson.

## **Welcome**

## **Approval of Agenda**

Mrs. York motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

## **Approval of March 18, 2024 regular meeting minutes**

Mr. Haley motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Justice seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

## **Financial report**

Mr. Goran presented the financial report. He indicated that Hart County would begin collecting the new SPLOST (6) revenue in May. He mentioned the Board previously voted to extend water service to Eric Sanders' poultry operation and that estimated cost is being shown on this month's HCWSA funds sheet. Mr. Haley inquired if the Will Bailey Road - Mount Olivet Road project would begin before Mr. Sanders' extension project. Mr. Goran stated this is an issue to discuss with the contractor and potential discussions may be necessary in future Board meetings. He also stated that as warmer weather arrives additional flushing would be required to maintain adequate chlorine residual levels.

## **Old Business**

### **Will Bailey Road – Mount Olivet Road connector project**

Mr. Goran said that contract documents are being prepared and he is hopeful the contractor can begin this project around June 1.

### **Request for water service – Beacon Light Road southeast of Morris Road**

Mr. Goran reminded the Board that they had previously voted to extend the Beacon Light Road line from Fred King Road to Eric Sanders' poultry operation. He asked if the Board would like interest or commitment letters sent out in the area between the poultry operation and Morris Road. Mr. Haley recommended sending out letters, but Mr. Carlton suggested we wait for the time being.

### **Request for water service – Bowman Highway poultry operations**

Mr. Goran told the Board the GDOT permit has been obtained. Mr. Goran said that decisions will have to be made about which projects to do first.

## **Five-year Georgia Environmental Finance Authority loan with 50% principal forgiveness**

Mr. Goran said that we should receive a categorical exemption from EPD relatively soon which means no environmental impact study will be required. He added he requested EMI to make recommendations of which areas to use this money. Additionally, he stated that GEFA has applied 2% additional interest during construction to encourage projects to be finished in a timely manner. He will ask if that 2% applies to the entire loan amount or just half.

## **New Business**

### **City of Bowersville request for modification to water service delivery territory**

Mayor Smith made his case for the City of Bowersville taking over a service area outside of the city limits due to water needs of the residents in this area. He and Mr. Goran showed this specific area on a map. Mr. Justice motioned to cede this service territory to Bowersville contingent upon the City securing funds to do the project. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

### **Request for water service – Dolphin Lane (off Old Mount Olivet Road)**

Ms. Mouchet has requested the Board's consideration for a property she is considering buying. She wants to improve an approximate three and a half acre area containing fifteen mobile homes currently serviced by the Sanders Trailer Park spring fed public water system. Ms. Mouchet is prepared to pay for and install fifteen taps to support these homes. To avoid any concerns about this area being subdivided into just three lots generating less water revenue for the Authority, Ms. Mouchet suggested her intent could be written into the deed to provide fifteen small residences to alleviate any concerns. Following general discussion of concerns regarding septic systems, dock access and county code requirements, the discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

## **Director's Comments**

Mr. Goran shared that Mrs. Neal's presence is appreciated, and that she has a firm grasp on the utility side of the business. Holly Mathis continues to provide remote assistance. He stated we are streamlining processes including restricting non-employee access to critical functions. Mrs. Neal has additional Edmunds training in the coming weeks so that she may assume additional responsibilities as quickly as possible.

Mr. Goran mentioned that we continue to suffer from the disruption to the US Postal Service. Local checks are being hand delivered to avoid late fees. Additionally, Authority staff are encouraging the free option of bank drafts and emailing of customers' bills to avoid late delivery of payments.

## **Members' Comments**

Mr. Justice stated that upon further reflection, he felt he voted too quickly to remove the tap payment plan for new customers. He shared that it occurred to him plenty of residents may not be able to afford the upfront \$1775 price of a ¾" meter. He stated this option should be reconsidered provided the Authority's costs are adequately covered. Following general discussion on this topic, it was agreed that the Board will discuss this at the next meeting.

## **Upcoming Meetings – June 17<sup>th</sup>, July 15<sup>th</sup>**

## **Adjournment**

Mr. Haley motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Harper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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Wade Carlton, Chairman

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