

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority

Board of Directors Meeting July 15, 2024

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on July 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 (by telephone) and Patti York as well as Director Pat Goran, Legal Counsel Kim Higginbotham and several other members of the community.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

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

Public Comments

Mr. Carlton invited the citizens to speak. Residents from the Reed Creek area reaffirmed their struggles for clean water and desire for Authority service. Residents also inquired if the Will Bailey - Mount Olivet project would extend to Reed Creek but were informed that these are two different projects and one does not affect the other. Residents inquired as to why a project does not cover every side road when projects on main roads are in progress. Mr. Goran explained that the Board discusses the needs and financial implications and that projects often change from the original plan.

Approval of June 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes

Mr. Haley motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. York seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Financial report

Mr. Goran stated that the available SPLOST funding has not changed. He noted there are some issues with the available HCWSA funds due to City of Lavonia billing issues, but this should be resolved next month when Lavonia's billing issues are corrected.

Mr. Goran discussed the funding for the Beacon Light Road extension including the added cost to extend from Eric Sanders' poultry operation to Morris Road that the Board approved during the June meeting.

Mr. Goran shared there were no major changes to the flushing gallons this month.

Old Business

Georgia Environmental Finance Authority loan for expansion into Reed Creek area

Kim Higginbotham stated that a resolution must be passed this evening formally accepting the loan. Additionally, she stated that the documents would need to be signed and the Board should authorize who signs and for what purpose. After some discussion, the Board decided that Mr. Carlton and Ms. York would sign the loan documents as they are Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively. Additionally, the Board decided Ms. Neal would sign as acting Secretary while Mr. Goran and Ms. Neal would sign for draws made

on the loan. A motion was made by Ms. York and seconded by Mr. Harper to approve these signatories as discussed. The motion passed unanimously.

Will Bailey Road – Morris Road – Beacon Light Road – Mount Olivet Project

Mr. Goran stated that the project got off to a slow start due to some minor complications, but that the project was underway.

Mr. Goran said that the current plan is to complete the line to Eric Sanders' poultry operation, do Will Bailey Road and the Highland Ridge subdivision, then Morris Road to Beacon Light Road.

New Business - none

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran shared that due to the high cost of fuel, new Field Technician Cory Bouquet, who lives in Elberton, had inquired about driving an Authority vehicle home on the nights he is on call. Board discussion included Authority liability, personal use of vehicle, a potential fuel stipend or raise after his probation period is complete. Additionally, Mr. Goran stated that he would be approaching the board soon about staff raises so further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Members' Comments

Mr. Haley asked why we do not have a part-time field technician as we had many years ago. Ms. Higginbotham asked if we could parse out part-time and weekend calls to a contractor. Mr. Justice asked if a contractor would be required to be licensed. Ms. Higginbotham stated she knows of several contractors who may be interested in additional work. Mr. Goran pointed out that a contractor would be more expensive than an employee being on call. Further discussion ensued but no motions were made.

Finally, Mr. Carlton asked if the bill had been sent for the damage to our main line due to an illegal excavation in May. Mr. Goran stated the bill has not been issued but is being drafted.

Upcoming Meetings – August 19th, September 16th

Adjournment

Ms. York motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Justice seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Wade Carlton, Chairman