

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority

Board of Directors Meeting September 18, 2023

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on September 18, 2023, in the Hart County Cooperative Extension Service Building. Chairman Wade Carlton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present were Board Members Bennie Harper, Marvin Justice, and Patti York; Director Pat Goran; Attorney Kim Higginbotham; recently hired Office Manager Brenda Roper; several members of the public. Board Member Larry Haley was absent.

Welcome

Mr. Goran asked that before going forward, we have some bank cards for the Board to sign. This would allow Board Members to sign checks in the event Mr. Goran or Mrs. Roper were not available.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. York motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Justice seconded the motion and it passed 4 – 0.

Public Comments: remarks by invited guests

Bobby Vickery, Carolyn Vickery, Rachelene Johnson, Kevin Vickery and Peggy Cromer spoke in support of getting water service on Beacon Light Road between Fred King Road and Morris Road.

Mr. Goran explained that the project that the Board approved several months ago calls for installing a water line on Beacon Light Road from the intersection of Morris Road going up Beacon Light Road to Mount Olivet Road and then across Mount Olivet Road to Fred King Road, but not going from the Morris Road intersection toward Fred King Road.

Alaina LaCount requested water service for the rental homes she has at 4505 and 4507 Bowersville Highway as she is having issues with the well that currently serves the homes.

There was discussion related to the above requests about canvassing the areas to see who was interested and sending out commitment letters to see if the projects were feasible.

Approval of August 21st regular meeting minutes

Mr. Harper motioned to approve the August 21st regular meeting minutes. Mr. Justice seconded the motion which passed 4 – 0.

Financial report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report.

Old Business

Eric Sanders' request for water service – Beacon Light Road poultry operations

The Board discussed Mr. Sanders' request and asked if he was willing to sign a 10-year water purchase agreement. He indicated he was. Mr. Justice motioned to move forward with this request contingent on Mr. Sanders committing to purchase 942,000 gallons of water per year assuming 6" pipe coming from the Fred King Road intersection to his property was adequate. Mr. Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Request for water service –Cedar Creek Circle area possibly including Moore Road, Stephen Johnson Road

No action was taken.

Will Bailey Road – Mt Olivet Road connector project

Mr. Goran informed the Board that EMI was continuing to do the necessary fieldwork for this project.

Request for water service - Maxwell Mill Road

No action was taken.

Consideration of Georgia Environmental Finance Authority loan with principal forgiveness

Mr. Goran reminded the Board that HCWSA's proposed approximately \$5,000,000 project had qualified for a loan from GEFA, but HCWSA has yet to be told what the percentage of principal forgiveness will be.

No action taken.

New Business

Proposed fiscal year 2024 operating budget.

Mr. Goran discussed the proposed budget. After some discussion Mr. Justice motioned to approve the budget and give the Field Technician a 7.5% raise and the Director a 2.5% raise. Ms. York seconded the motion, and it was approved 4-0.

Fiscal year 2024 audit engagement letter

Ms. York motioned to have Mr. Carlton and Mr. Goran sign the letter contingent on Mr. Goran getting an explanation from the Auditor of some of the wording in the letter. Mr. Justice seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran explained that the bridge contractor had lowered the recently installed storm drain under Akin-Lunsford Road that was in conflict with HCWSA's water line so there is no longer a conflict. Mr. Goran said he very confident that this issue is now resolved, and Ms. Higginbotham agreed.

Members' Comments – none

Upcoming Meetings – October 16th & November 20th (week of Thanksgiving)

Adjournment

Mr. Justice motioned to adjourn, and Ms. York seconded. The motion passed 4 - 0.

Wade Carlton, Chairman

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