

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority

Board of Directors Meeting January 21, 2021

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on January 21st, 2021 in the Hart County Library Lower Meeting Room. Chairman Wade Carlton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present were: Board Members Larry Haley, Bennie Harper, Marvin Justice via phone, and Patti York; Director Pat Goran; Legal Counsel Kim Higginbotham; Board Secretary/Treasurer Holly McBrayer; The Hartwell Sun Reporter Drew Dotson; and Hart County residents Brian Canady, Leigh Canady, Bobby Carson, and Rachelene Johnson.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Haley motioned to approve the agenda. Ms. York seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Public Comments: remarks by invited guests

None

Approval of December 21st regular meeting minutes

Ms. York motioned to approve the December 21st regular meeting minutes. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Financial report

Mr. Goran informed the Board that their paychecks would be mailed the day after each meeting as suggested by the auditor.

Mr. Goran presented the Financial Report. Mr. Goran stated that the annual depreciation had increased to about \$556,000 for an accumulated total of over five million dollars. He suggested the Board consider setting aside additional funds for depreciation in the future. No action was taken.

Old Business

Request for Water Service – Mount Olivet Road, Cleveland Mill Road, Pineview Lane, Oaktree Lane, Reno Drive

Mr. Goran informed the Board that 40 signed commitment letters within the project scope had been received. He said that when considering the estimated cost using all 6” pipe at current prices the project lacked one commitment of meeting the \$7,500 cost per committed customer criteria.

Mr. Carlton explained that while the project would actually use 12” pipe, he felt it would be fairer for evaluation purposes for the Board to base their decisions on this and future projects on 6” pipe, regardless of what size pipe was installed.

Mr. Goran provided a cost estimate using 12” pipe on Mount Olivet Road of about \$444,000.

Mr. Canady cited poor water quality and health related concerns as reasons for his support of this project.

Mr. Goran suggested proceeding with the engineering and permitting only at this time. He stated that this cost had been included in the estimate provided and comprised about \$35,000 of the total.

After some discussion, Mr. Haley motioned to proceed with the engineering and permitting for this project. Ms. York seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Request for water service – Old Hendry’s Church Road

Mr. Goran provided a revised cost estimate of \$46,887.85 based on older PVC pipe prices which included the additional footage to reach the sixth committed customer and for proper hydrant spacing. He stated that 6 signed commitment letters had been received.

Ms. York motioned to proceed with the project including the additional footage and the cost not exceeding \$51,000.

Mr. Carlton questioned to possibility of connecting to the existing line that ended at the intersection of Old Hendry’s Church Road and Goldmine Village Road. After some discussion, the Board agreed to revisit this topic at the next meeting.

Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Review and discussion of Authority’s Mission Statement and Strategic Business Plan

The Board discussed the strategic business plan. Mr. Carlton suggested making the Whitworth line replacement a priority due to the recurring repair issues.

Mr. Goran informed the Board of funding options for capital projects through GEFA. He stated that although principal forgiveness apparently is no longer available to Hart County due to changing demographics, GEFA still maintained extremely low interest rates.

The Board agreed to discuss this topic further at the next meeting.

2020 Community Development Block Grant

Mr. Goran said that engineering is in progress and that the project should be ready to bid in the near future.

New Business

Request for water service – Teasley Lane/Cove

Mr. Goran provided a cost estimate of \$14,931.15 and stated that 2 signed vacant lot commitment letters had been received. After a brief discussion, no action was taken.

Fiscal Year 2020 audit

Mr. Goran stated that copies of the FY20 audit report had been included in the Board member’s binders for review. He suggested calling Ms. McBrayer or himself with any questions.

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran asked the Board to sign the Bank Entity Authorization form.

Mr. Goran informed the Board that a new individual had purchased the poultry operation on Bowersville Highway. The prior owner had requested water service which the Board had previously approved contingent upon receiving a signed commitment letter. The Board agreed to proceed with this project contingent upon receiving a signed commitment letter from the new owner of the facility.

Mr. Goran informed the Board of a new subdivision being planned in the Rock Springs area, and that the developer had agreed to pay for the entire project in accordance with Hart County's ordinance. The Board concurred.

Mr. Goran stated that the 2020 Water Loss Audit has begun and was due to EPD by March 1st, 2021.

Mr. Goran informed the Board of the auditor's suggestion of allowing him to approve and/or sign his own payroll checks or direct deposit in an effort to streamline the process. In an effort of transparency, the Board agreed to have the Chairman approve payroll through online banking.

Members' Comments

None

Upcoming Meetings – Monday, February 15th, 2021 and Monday, March 15th, 2021

The next Board meetings will be held Monday, February 15th, 2021 and Monday, March 15th, 2021.

Adjournment

Mr. Harper motioned to adjourn, and Ms. York seconded it. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Wade Carlton, Chairman

Holly McBrayer, Secretary