

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority
Called Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2018

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on May 17, 2018, in the Hart County Cooperative Extension Service Building. Present were Chairman Wade Carlton; Vice Chairman Hugh Holland; Board Members Patti Brown, Larry Haley, and Marvin Justice. Also present were Director Pat Goran; Legal Counsel Walter Gordon; Board Secretary/Treasurer Holly McBrayer; Hartwell Sun reporter Michael Isom and intern Grayson Williams; and Hart County Residents Eric Sanders, Amber Smith, and Joey Smith.

Call to Order

Chairman Wade Carlton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Holland motioned to approve the agenda. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Discussion of guidelines for prioritizing and approving new projects, including those primarily for poultry operations

Mr. Goran informed the Board of his research into how other municipalities and authorities choose projects. He stated that each one is different. Mr. Goran said that in the past HCWSA has been mostly reactionary in its decision making. He suggested becoming more proactive and consider things such as population density, potential revenues, and hydraulic benefits. Mr. Goran reminded the Board that no funding had been set aside for depreciation expenses since the Authority's creation. He emphasized the importance of setting aside funds for future repair, pipe replacement, and system expansion.

The Board discussed funding options for capital projects. One option discussed was the creation of special purpose tax districts. The Board discussed the many factors to consider when choosing projects and the need to establish set guidelines.

Mr. Goran cautioned the Board against adopting rigid policies. He suggested adopting guidelines to allow for flexibility in decision making. He also recommended requiring a gallons commitment on projects driven primarily by poultry operations that would make it at least financially equivalent to projects primarily for residential customers, due to the difference in revenue collected from base fees.

Mr. Holland so motioned to adopt Mr. Goran's recommendation. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 3 – 2 with Ms. Brown and Mr. Justice opposed.

Mr. Carlton motioned to allocate 30% of SPLOST 5 funds for nonresidential projects. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 4 - 1 with Mr. Justice opposed.

Mr. Haley motioned to require poultry operations to agree to a 10 year commitment in which the commitment remains with the property should the property be sold during that timeframe, and that the commitment be recorded at the Courthouse. Mr. Holland seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Review of hydrant use policy and unauthorized equipment

Mr. Goran presented the HCWSA hydrant meter assembly specifications.

After some discussion, Mr. Haley motioned to allow privately owned fire hydrant meters, that said meters must be registered with the Authority, and customers who owned such meters would not be charged the \$3.00 per day fee. The motioned failed to receive a second.

Mr. Holland motioned that all hydrant meter customers must sign HCWSA’s Hydrant Water Use Agreement and either: use a HCWSA-supplied meter assembly and pay the \$1600 deposit or; a customer may purchase a Sensus OMNI H² meter and other specified components and register it with the Authority in which case the \$3.00 per day fee would be waived. Mr. Carlton seconded the motion which passed 4 – 1 with Mr. Justice opposed.

Mr. Holland then motioned that: all hydrant meter assemblies must be inspected by the Authority prior to use; the customer must inform HCWSA of their intent to use and give an approximate time, date and location of use; the meters must be read monthly; their use must be subject to inspection by HCWSA at the Director’s discretion; and no hydrant users be on the “honor system.”. Mr. Carlton seconded the motion which passed 4 – 0 – 1 with Mr. Haley abstaining.

Other items as time allows

Mr. and Mrs. Smith requested an extension of HCWSA’s water line on Reed Creek Highway citing poor water quality at their residence.

Adjournment

Mr. Holland motioned to adjourn and Mr. Justice seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Wade Carlton, Chairman

Holly McBrayer, Secretary/Treasurer