

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority Board of Directors Meeting May 21, 2018

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on May 21st, 2018 in the Hart County Cooperative Extension Service Building. Chairman Wade Carlton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present were: Vice - Chairman Hugh Holland; Board Members Patti Brown, Larry Haley and Marvin Justice; Director Pat Goran; Legal Counsel Walter Gordon; Board Secretary/Treasurer Holly McBrayer; The Hartwell Sun Reporter Michael Isom; Bowersville Mayor Jim Jordan; Bowersville Councilwomen Felicia Brown, Kelly Cagle and Cindy Hensley; and Hart County residents Vinh Nguyen, Amber Smith, and Joey Smith.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Carlton requested an additional item to be added to the agenda as “Amendment to Previous Motion” under new business. Mr. Holland motioned to approve the amended agenda. Ms. Brown seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Public Comments; remarks by invited guests

Ms. Hensley explained that the City of Bowersville was applying for a USDA loan/grant. She requested an amendment to the water service delivery territory map wherein HCSWA would cede some of its current territory in the area to the City of Bowersville. Mr. Goran reminded the Board that they had previously discussed allowing this with an option for HCWSA to purchase the system back from Bowersville at fair market value in the future.

After some discussion and review of the proposed territory in question, Mr. Holland motioned to proceed with a request to the Hart County Board of Commissioners to amend the service delivery territory as requested by Bowersville contingent on the USDA approving their loan/grant request. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Mr. Smith requested water service to be extended on Reed Creek Highway.

Approval of April 16th regular meeting minutes

Mr. Holland motioned to approve the April 16th regular meeting minutes. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

Financial report

Mr. Goran explained that 30% of the Authority’s anticipated SPLOST 5 dollars equal \$960,000 over 6 years. Mr. Holland noted that was equal to \$160,000 a year. Mr. Goran stated that the three poultry operations’ requests on the current agenda was estimated to be \$724,000. Mr. Goran cautioned against spending such a large percentage in such a short time.

Mr. Goran suggested the Board formally approve the draft HCWSA strategic plan that was briefly discussed in the recent called meeting.

Mr. Goran presented the financial report. He noted a decrease in the remaining SPLOST 4 funds due to additional expenses on the Cokesbury Highway project.

Old Business

Discussion of water service delivery territory near City of Bowersville

See Public Comments

Request for water service – Mewborn Road, Eagle Grove School Road, Liberty Church Road poultry operations, residents

The Board asked Mr. Goran to reach out to each poultry operation that has requested water service and inform them of the recent changes to the required poultry operation commitments. Each poultry request will be revisited at the next meeting.

Request for water service – Beacon Light Road residents

After some discussion, the Board agreed that the request does not currently meet the guidelines, but will revisit the request at the next meeting.

Request for water service – Griffin Road / Roper Road poultry operation

This request will be revisited at the next meeting.

Request for water service – Ray Johnson Road poultry operation

No action was taken in light of the earlier vote with respect to the City of Bowersville's request.

Hydrant usage and payment for water withdrawn

Mr. Goran reminded the Board that in February they voted to remove the \$3 per day fee and replace it with a monthly base fee of \$90 for 0 - 9,000 gallons used per month. Mr. Gordon provided revised Hydrant Agreement drafts shortly before the meeting. The Board agreed to revisit this topic at the next meeting so that the Members had time to review all of the information.

New Business

Amendment to Previous Motion

Mr. Carlton clarified his motion made in the recent called meeting to add the wording "not to exceed" 30% of SPLOST 5 dollars to be allocated for nonresidential projects. Mr. Holland motioned to approve the change. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 4 – 0– 1 with Mr. Justice abstaining.

Request for water service – Price Chapel Road

After some discussion, the Board agreed that the request did not currently meet the guidelines. Mr. Goran will reach out to the residents for additional commitment letters. This request will be revisited at the next meeting.

University of North Carolina financial health check-up and rate review for Authority

Mr. Goran and Mrs. McBrayer presented the results of the University of North Carolina's financial review of HCWSA and their suggested rate increase. After some discussion, the Board requested additional information regarding neighboring municipalities' rates. This topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran commended Mrs. McBrayer on her continuous hard work.

Mr. Goran informed the Board that BASF had informally requested a lower rate due to their high water usage. Mr. Goran explained that BASF, per our policy, currently does not incur a base fee on any of their 5 meters since they use over 2,000,000 per month.

Mr. Goran also informed the Board that he would be on vacation May 23 - 25.

Members' Comments

Hugh questioned if HCWSA could get a loan to fund the Eagle Grove School Road / Mewborn Road / Liberty Church Road project. Mr. Goran answered that it was a possibility.

Upcoming Meetings – June 18th and July 16th

The next two regular Board meetings will be held on Monday, June 18th, 2018 and Monday July 16th, 2018.

Adjournment

Mr. Haley motioned to adjourn and Mr. Holland seconded it. The motion passed 5 – 0.

Wade Carlton, Chairman

Holly McBrayer, Secretary

