

Hart County Water & Sewer Authority

Board of Directors Meeting September 18, 2017

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on September 18th, 2017 in the Hart County Cooperative Extension Service Building. Director Pat Goran called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present were Board Members Jerry Cannady, Larry Haley and Mike MacNabb; Legal Counsel Walter Gordon, and Board Secretary/Treasurer Holly McBrayer. Also present was The Hartwell Sun Reporter Michael Isom. Absent were Chairman Wade Carlton and Vice - Chairman Hugh Holland.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Mr. MacNabb motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 3 – 0.

Public Comments; remarks by invited guests

None

Approval of August 24th regular meeting minutes

Mr. Cannady motioned to approve the August 24th regular meeting minutes. Mr. Haley seconded the motion which passed 3 - 0.

Financial report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report in which he noted that water sales had exceeded the annual budget 11 months into the fiscal year.

Mr. Cannady questioned when the 5% withholding would be released for SPLOST IV funds. Mr. Goran volunteered to contact the County Administrator to inquire when the holdback would be removed and if there were any other stipulations.

Old Business

2013 GEFA loan update (including Bethany Church Area, Rock Springs area, Mouchet Road, Blackmon Road, end of Old Mount Hebron / Oak Mountain Lane / Amber Lane)

Mr. Goran stated that Arrowood General Contracting had completed the Old Mount Hebron / Oak Mountain Lane / Amber Lane project and had begun installing waterlines on Wolf Creek Trail. Mr. Goran said that the \$2,000,000 GEFA loan amount will be used up with the completion of Wolf Creek Trail.

Reed Creek Phase II (2015 CDBG) and addition of Cokesbury Highway

Mr. Goran informed the Board that the bid opening meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 19th.

Hydrant usage and payment for water withdrawn

Mr. Goran said that he had contacted other counties to research their procedures. He suggested increasing the deposit and reiterated his safety and liability concerns.

Mr. MacNabb suggested having a central location and do away with the honor system. He also suggested suspending hydrant use until the Board amended the policy. Mr. MacNabb stated that in his opinion, the rates would have to be increased to cover labor costs.

Mr. Cannady also expressed his concern regarding liability. He suggested having the Field Technician install all hydrant meters going forward and revisit this topic at the next meeting. Additionally, Mr. Cannady requested hydrant use statistics for the next meeting.

Mr. Haley recommended having the customer bring the meter in each month so that Authority staff could get the meter reading.

Mr. Goran said that the Authority's policy requires that the customer provide some form of backflow prevention, but that not all customers' trucks use an air gap.

Mr. MacNabb volunteered to contact Hartwell's City Manager to inquire whether or not they will continue to offer hydrant use after their treatment plant construction was complete.

Status of maintenance / new services installation agreement

Mr. Goran reviewed the new agreement. Mr. Haley motioned to authorize the Chairman and Director to sign the new agreement. Mr. MacNabb seconded the motion which passed 3 – 0.

2018 Community Development Block Grant application

Mr. Goran apprised the Board of his recent meeting with Allen-Smith to determine promising target areas. Allen-Smith suggested three new areas: (1) B. Bailey Road, Jane Road, and McLane Morris Road; (2) Will Bailey Road, Crossroads Circle, Whiting Drive, and K-N-K Lane; (3) Airline Store Road, Kotal Road, Kotal Circle, and Deer Run Lane. Mr. Goran had also asked Allen-Smith to research Hanley Road. Mr. Goran stated that Authority staff will likely end up doing the surveys.

Mr. Cannady asked if Mr. Goran had researched the potential federal CDBG budget cuts. Mr. Goran replied that he had spoken with a representative of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs who indicated they were expecting a 3% cut at the federal level, but it was unknown how that would affect what Georgia receives. Mr. Goran recommended continuing with the grant application using the suggested target areas and the Board agreed.

New Business

Annual Review of Board Members' potential conflicts of interest

The Board completed the conflict of interest forms.

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran informed the Board of concerns reported by the neighboring property owner regarding the work done at the out-of-service water tank on Royston Highway. After some discussion, Mr. Cannady motioned to

pay the contractor's invoice received. Mr. MacNabb seconded the motion which passed 2 – 0. Mr. Haley abstained.

Members' Comments

Mr. Cannady requested that Mr. Goran complete his unfinished work on the Sewage Treatment Agreements between HCWSA and the City of Royston and the City of Hartwell. He also inquired about the software update. Mr. Goran stated that the financial software would be live beginning on October 1st and the utility billing software would follow on November 1st excluding any unexpected delays. He also thanked Mrs. McBrayer for bringing to his attention unusually high water usage.

Mr. Haley inquired about the FY17 audit.

Mr. Goran replied that both he and Mrs. McBrayer had met with the auditor who thought the actual cost would be the same or less than the estimate. Mr. Goran also said that he had sent the previously requested letters to the County Administrator and Burch and Crooms Company, LLP.

Mr. MacNabb requested that Mr. Goran make a recommendation to the Board regarding hydrant meter use.

Upcoming Meetings – October 16th, November 20th

The next two Board meetings will be held on Monday, September 18, 2017 and Monday, October 16, 2017.

Adjournment

Mr. MacNabb motioned to adjourn and Mr. Haley seconded it. The motion passed 3 – 0.

Wade Carlton, Chairman

Holly McBrayer, Secretary