

# **Hart County Water and Sewer Authority**

## **Board of Directors Meeting October 17, 2022**

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, in the Hart County Cooperative Extension Service Building. Chairman Wade Carlton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Present were Board Members Larry Haley, Bennie Harper, Marvin Justice, and Patti York; Director Pat Goran; Attorney Kim Higginbotham; Board Secretary/Treasurer Holly McBrayer.

### **Welcome**

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **Public Comments: remarks by invited guests**

None

### **Approval of September 19<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes**

Ms. York motioned to approve the September 19<sup>th</sup> regular meeting minutes. Mr. Harper seconded the motion which passed 5 – 0.

### **Financial report**

Mr. Goran presented the financial report. He noted that water sales, tap fees and interest earned exceeded the budgeted projects for fiscal year 2022.

### **Old Business**

#### **2020 Community Development Block Grant project update**

Mr. Goran stated that the project completion deadline extension request had been approved. He said that there were a couple of items left to be completed before the remainder of the contractor's retainage would be released. Mr. Goran also said that he had a few customers left to meet with and planned to deliver last chance letters to potential customers the Authority had not yet heard from.

#### **Discussion of potential 2023 Community Development Block Grant target areas**

Mr. Goran presented the FY22 and FY23 income surveys provided by the Department of Community Affairs. He stated that the income range had increased by about 12%. Mr. Goran said it may be beneficial to re-survey the Mt Olivet area.

## **New Business**

### **Discussion of ballpark pipe installation costs and review of customer usage**

Mr. Goran presented his ballpark pipe installation costs as follows: 6" pipe at \$175,000, 8" pipe at \$225,000 and 12" pipe at \$350,000 per mile. He explained that each project is unique and other factors such as the number of cased bores, stream and driveway crossings, and supplier and contractor market conditions are significant variables to consider.

Mr. Goran also presented the average residential customer usage at 4,246 gallons per month and the average residential overage usage at 3,399 gallons per month. After some discussion, the Board asked Mr. Goran if he recommended a rate increase to the overage fees. Mr. Goran stated that he did not recommend doing so at this time.

Mr. Goran presented a usage and dollars billed by account type comparison.

Mr. Harper inquired about the results of the ISO fire hydrant testing.

Mr. Goran answered that he had not yet received the results and was interested in seeing if there were any areas in the Authority's system that were issues. He hoped to have the results before the next Board meeting.

### **Director's Comments**

Mr. Goran said that 221 locates had been responded to in September. He also noted that the Gateway III Lift station project was still under construction. Mr. Goran reminded the Board that when the project was complete it would be a cost to the Authority to periodically exercise the lift station since there are currently no customers slated to move into the area to be served by the lift station.

Mr. Goran informed the Board that state-created authorities such as the HCWSA could now purchase materials exempt from sales tax for contractor's use. He noted that this was a change from the Department of Revenue's previous interpretation of Georgia tax laws and would likely result in the Authority purchasing materials for most projects in the future to save money.

### **Members' Comments**

Mr. Haley asked if Mr. Unruh had called regarding a potential subdivision. Mr. Goran replied that he had not been contacted by Mr. Unruh.

Mr. Justice asked Mr. Goran to provide a recommendation of three capital projects to utilize Authority funds at the next meeting.

Mr. Harper questioned if there were any plans for a county wide water system or long-range plans in general. Mr. Goran said that there were no existing plans for a county wide system due to projected cost and a current lack of funding. Ms. McBrayer added that the Board had in fact approved a business plan a few years ago.

## **Upcoming Meeting – November 21<sup>st</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup>**

After some discussion, the Board agreed to hold the next two meetings on Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### **Adjournment**

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

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Wade Carlton, Chairman

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Holly McBrayer, Secretary