

Hart County Water and Sewer Authority

Board of Directors Meeting December 20, 2021

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met on December 20th, 2021, 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 Walter Gordon; Board Secretary/Treasurer Holly McBrayer.

Welcome

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Carlton motioned to approve the agenda. Ms. York seconded the motion which passed 4 – 0.

Public Comments: remarks by invited guests

None

Approval of October 18th regular meeting minutes

Mr. Haley motioned to approve the October 18th regular meeting minutes. Ms. York seconded the motion which passed 4 – 0.

Financial report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report. He informed the Board that the City of Royston had requested that HCWSA purchase less water than what HCWSA has been, which is already significantly less than permitted by agreement. Mr. Goran stated he had reached out to both the City of Hartwell and the City of Lavonia, and Hartwell was interested in selling HCWSA more water. Mr. Goran noted that the City of Royston was the highest cost provider.

The Board agreed to purchase less water from the City of Royston if it did not adversely affect HCWSA's water system and agreed to allow Mr. Goran to use his judgment regarding percentage goals.

Mr. Goran commented that generally once a water system reached the point of selling one million gallons per day, it would be wise to consider building their own water treatment facility and/or have its own well(s).

Old Business

2020 Community Development Block Grant

Mr. Goran informed the Board that the Well Road and Seed Cleaner Road portions of the CDBG 2020 project were complete. He stated that the contractor was now installing waterlines on Uly White Road and planned to continue onto Bode Weaver Road, Friendship Road and John W. Jordan Road within the project scope.

Mr. Goran stated that although pipe prices were still high, he encouraged the Board to complete system loops on some of the following: Tom Rice/Clay Brown/Seed Cleaner/Friendship to Pearson/Friendship/Bode Weaver/ Hometown once the original scope of the project was complete.

2022 Community Development Block Grant target area, including Mount Olivet Road, Cleveland Mill Road, Pineview Lane, Oaktree Lane, Reno Drive

Mr. Goran stated that surveys were still being collected and expressed concerns in meeting the 70% LMI requirements. He also stated that the application deadline had been delayed until June 1, 2022.

Mr. Harper arrived at this time.

New Business

Request for water service – Hickory Crossing Road between Elberton Highway and Hodges Mill Road

Mr. Goran reminded the Board of the recent water service request for a portion of Hickory Crossing Road. Mr. Goran presented a rough cost estimate of \$337,562.80. He said that commitment letters had been mailed in July of 2020 to an area that included Hickory Crossing Road and that seven Hickory Crossing Road residents had responded positively at that time.

No residents were present; No action was taken.

Fiscal year 2021 audit

Mr. Goran informed the Board that copies of the final audit were available. He said that it was a favorable audit with two findings that will likely continue due to HCWSA's small staff size.

Mr. Goran noted that the bad debt expense for FY21 totaled \$1,152.00 which is extremely low compared to other utilities. He also noted that "net cash provided by operating activities", which is a key financial indicator, was \$704,608.

Director's Comments

Mr. Goran informed the Board of a recent theft of supplies, specifically brass/bronze items, and that a police report had been filed. Mr. Goran asked whether or not to press charges if an arrest was made. The Board agreed to press charges if the opportunity presented itself.

Mr. Goran updated the Board on the progress of the Hart County Industrial Building Authority's Gateway III Sewer Expansion project. He reminded the Board that he was the project manager although this was not a HCWSA-funded project and that the lift station, force main and all appurtenances would become HCWSA's asset once the project was complete. Mr. Goran noted the considerable amount of time Authority staff has spent on this project. He also noted that there will be costs to "exercise" the lift station periodically as there will likely be no retail customers at the time the facility goes into operation.

Mr. Goran discussed the continuing issues with increased pipe prices, delays in delivery, and lack of availability.

Members' Comments

None

Upcoming Meeting – Thursday January 20th, 2022, and Monday, February 21st, 2022

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday January 20th, 2022, due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday and Monday, February 21 20th, 2022, at the Authority's office.

Adjournment

Mr. Haley motioned to adjourn, and Mr. Justice seconded it. The motion passed 5 - 0.

Wade Carlton, Chairman

Holly McBrayer, Secretary