

Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority

Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2015

Chairman Ehrhardt called the March 12, 2015 Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present included Chairman Dave Ehrhardt, Vice Chairman Shade Storey, Board Member Joe Hicks, Board Member Pat Bell and Board Member Dylan Wilbanks. Also present: Manager Eric Klerk, Attorney Paul Smart, Finance Director Judy Smith, Authority Engineer Joe Leslie, CIO/GIS Analyst Mike Johnson, Water/Wastewater Manager Mark Dudziak, and Board Secretary Karen Johnson. Visitors included Alex Pace, Main Street Newspapers.

Chairman Ehrhardt noted that the first agenda item has been removed.

Approval of Minutes

Member Hicks made a motion to approve the March 12, 2015 board meeting minutes.

Member Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objection and all board members present voting.

New Business

Addition to Fire Line Connection Schedule

Manager Klerk stated our existing fire line schedule is antiquated. He said when the schedule was made, we had nothing larger than an eight-inch fire line. Manager Klerk said we have requests for and installed twelve-inch fire lines and meters. He said this is why he is proposing to add twelve inch fire lines to the current fee schedule. Manager Klerk stated Engineer Leslie extrapolated the current fee data on the smaller sizes to come up with the additional fees.

Engineer Leslie explained how he determined the fee for the twelve-inch line.

Chairman Ehrhardt asked about surrounding area fees for this size of line. Manager Klerk stated we are right in line with them.

Engineer Leslie stated Pro Logis recently purchased a twelve-inch line and they were charged \$52,299.83.

Chairman Ehrhardt asked about the cost of a meter. Engineer Leslie said a ten-inch meter is \$8,400 and a twelve-inch is \$9,900. He stated that we supply the meter but the Developer/Contractor installs the meter.

Member Wilbanks made a motion to amend the Fire Line Connection Fee Schedule to add a twelve-inch fire line fee in the amount of \$52,299.83, to the existing Fire Line Connection Fee Schedule.

Member Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objection and all board members present voting.

Ratification of Additional Costs at Wheeler Cemetery Pump Station

Manager Klerk explained when the Wheeler Cemetery Pump Station project was closed out we realized we were over the contracted amount by 4.77%. He said this is due primarily to SCADA not being included in the construction budget.

Engineer Leslie said the project was designed to give us control at the site but not in the office. He said staff decided it would be prudent to also have control at the office as well and explained how the system works.

Member Bell made a motion to approve the additional expense of \$22,102 for the Wheeler Pump Cemetery Station Project.

Vice Chairman Storey seconded the motion. The motion carried with no objection and all board members present voting.

Managers Report

WATER

Dry Pond Water Tower has had its exterior repainted. The words: "Jackson County Means Business" were repainted on as well and visible to northbound I-85 traffic. We are waiting for the Authority logo to be placed on the tower, which will be visible to southbound I-85 traffic.

The Talmo Pump Station is under construction and slated for completion in the first week of July. See photograph.

The GDOT Hwy 129 widening project in north Jackson has not started as anticipated this last February. GDOT is now scheduling construction for the fall this year. This is the project where the Authority's cost participation will be about \$224,000 spread over the next (3) years. This does not include the \$40,000 the Authority has already spent on design engineering for water line relocations.

Presently under consideration is an upgrade to the motors/pumps at the Hwy 60 pump station, specifically converting the pump drives to VFD's in an effort to reduce water hammer and electrical costs. Electrical costs at this station alone average at least \$75,000.00 annually.

At Bear Creek, we are progressing slowly with converting one of the three pumps to a VFD. Two of the three are already VFD's. The Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority has approved the Notice to Proceed for Jacobs Engineering to begin the Preliminary Engineering with a not-to-exceed total cost of \$28,308.00. The following information will be included: Pump Motor Modifications

VFD characteristics
Electrical Modifications

Conceptual layout of VFD and electrical equipment
Opinion of probable construction cost

The Authority's annual Consumer Confidence Report, or Water Quality Report, is being mailed to all Authority water customers within the next two days. A complete copy of this report is also available on our web site, www.jewsa.com.

SEWER

The Notice to Proceed for the sludge dewatering facilities at the MOWWTP has been executed and the preconstruction meeting is scheduled for April 16th.

The Authority has a site plan for its planned lift station in Valentine Park. The Authority has met with the City of Jefferson and has received permission to construct the station which lies on our ROW located on City of Jefferson property. See site plan.

FINANCE

The Authority is undergoing its annual audit. The audit is expected to be completed by the May Board Meeting.

Customer Base: In 2014 the Authority had a net gain of 210 water customers which equated to an annual customer base growth of 2.83%. For the first quarter of 2015, the Authority has gained 52 new customers. Three of these new customers are large commercial and incorporate fire line connections. In dollars, the connection fees this first quarter total \$181,981.00.

Member Bell asked about the Authority's ability to start making the debt service payment for Bear Creek. Manager Klerk said "yes" we have the ability to start doing something and have been looking at that extensively. He said we would like to start to pay half of the debt service starting January 2016 to Jackson County Government. He stated in another several years we would be able to absorb all of the debt service if growth continues. Manager Klerk said the Intergovernmental Agreement with the UOBWA clearly shows that it is Jackson County's debt but there is a document that "piggybacks" on the contract that indicates the Authority should pay a portion of the debt or all of it when we are able to do so.

Chairman Ehrhardt said we should have some guidelines going forward.

Finance Director Smith stated past meetings and presentations indicated when the Authority reaches an average of three million gallons per day volume year-round we would start assisting with the debt. She said were are just about to that volume.

Manager Klerk said we plan to put the debt payments in our 2016 budget.

Member Bell asked if there has been progress on the Parks Creek Reservoir. Manager Klerk said there has been and we should be receiving a revised agreement from the City of Jefferson.

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Karen Johnson
Board Secretary