

Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority
Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2016

Chairman Ehrhardt called the May 12, 2016 Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority Board Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Members present included Chairman Dave Ehrhardt, Vice Chairman Shade Storey, Board Member Pat Bell, Board Member Dylan Wilbanks and Board Member Ronnie Norris.

Also present: Attorney Paul Smart, Manager Eric Klerk, Authority Engineer Joey Leslie, Finance Director Judy Smith, CIO/GIS Analyst Mike Johnson and Water/Wastewater Manager Mark Dudziak. Visitors included Angie Gary, Main Street Newspapers, Roger Murray, Murray Barnes Finister LLP, and Bryan Huskey, Stifel/Merchant Capital Division.

Chairman Ehrhardt add one item to the agenda – City of Hoschton Water Sales Agreement.

Approval of Minutes

Member Bell made a motion to approve the April 21, 2016 Called Meeting minutes.

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

Finance Director Smith reviewed the financials.

New Business

Resolution to Proceed with Bonding SPLOST 6

Roger Murray (bond attorney) presented the information on the bonding for SPLOST 6. He explained after, looking at the term sheet presented with the bid that there is a rate lock agreement and if for any reason the bond issue did not close on time or make it through the validation process, it would cost the Authority a minimum of \$300,000. He explained we still have to go through the validation process which could cause the closing to be delayed. He stated the Board could authorize a not to exceed interest rate of 2.5% (as a base) and go ahead with the validation process. Mr. Murray said the final rate would be approved at the June 9th board meeting. He said the validation hearing is set for June 7th and the rate will be locked in with Bank of America (tentatively) on June 8th. Mr. Murray further explained that signing this resolution does not obligate the Authority to issue the bonds if the rate set by Bank of America on June 8th is not agreeable to the Board. He said the loan would be funded and closed on June 23rd.

Member Wilbanks made a motion to authorize the adoption of the bond resolution with the not to exceed interest rate and authorize the chairman and secretary to sign the award.

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

Doster Creek Lift Station and Basin Engineering Evaluation

Manager Klerk gave an overview of the proposal for services from Engineering Management. He said EMI was asked to take a close look at the Doster Creek Lift Station. Manager Klerk said we have had some issues with the actual building, including leaks, electrical hazards, and the enclosure is hard to heat. Manager Klerk said we will also look at the pump station itself to make sure it is adequate. He said we are trying to plan ahead and asked EMI to look at the entire basin to make sure it will meet our needs going forward.

Chairman Ehrhardt clarified that EMI would be assessing the building and the pumps and we would receive clear indications of what the entire structure would need.

Member Wilbanks made a motion to accept the Doster Creek Lift Station and Basin Engineering Evaluation Proposal from EMI.

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

Water Meter Easement Amendment to the Water Services Agreement

Manager Klerk said this change actually came to pass because of the Georgia Department of Transportation. He said we were told by GDOT that we can no longer install meter boxes in the right-of-way on any state roads. Manager Klerk said this effects installations going forward only. He clarified that subdivisions are not affected because all utility placements within subdivisions are guided by the Jackson County Unified Development Code (UDC). He said staff would like all new meter placements along public roads to be on private property for consistency; making it an across the board policy. He said we would need to tweak our Water Services Agreement to include language that would address easements. Manager Klerk said another reason for installing on private property is so we can recoup our costs if a meter box, antenna, etc. is damaged

Attorney Smart explained the legal issues with the easement rights.

Member Wilbanks made a motion to add the water meter easement language as presented to the Water Services Agreement.

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

Cross Connection Control Proposed Policy Revision

Manager Klerk said we have to follow the state and federal regulations on protecting our water from contamination. He said we have an updated Cross Connection Program that has been in effective for three years. He said accounts that are required to have back flow devices are required to test their devices and then send the Authority the reports. Manager Klerk said we have over 400 of these installations that are monitored. He said we have a list of companies that can test the back flow device for the property owner. He stated in the last month we had an incorrect report. Manager Klerk said the Authority contacted the company that tested the device and they said it was a clerical error.

He said we also contacted the certifying agency of said company and found out they do not monitor or enforce any regulations with these backflow testing companies. Manager Klerk said the existing policy, as it is now, allows several certifying organizations to test these devices. The Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) has a program that certifies testers of the companies and they handle any necessary enforcement as well. He stated any tester of a company can pay \$50.00 to become a part of the GAWP program.

Manager Klerk said staff would like to make changes to the existing policy by adding language that requires a certified tester be certified through the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP).

Member Norris made a motion to add the Georgia Association of Water Professionals language as presented to the Cross Connection Control Policy.

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

City of Hoschton Water Sales Agreement

Manager Klerk said this is the same agreement we have had for the last three years with the City of Hoschton. He said the contract is identical except the rates are slightly different. Manager Klerk said The City of Hoschton has already ratified the agreement. He said the rate difference is ten cents per thousand gallons less than the prior agreement.

Member Wilbanks made a motion to approve the City of Hoschton Water Sales Agreement as presented.

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

Manager's Report

- Construction ready to start on the Valentine Park Lift Station. Griffin Brothers has been awarded the contract.

Chairman Ehrhardt welcomed Nathan Hester, Engineering Assistant for the Water Authority.

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Karen Johnson,
Board Secretary