

Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2024

Chairman Dylan Wilbanks convened the Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on April 11, 2024.

Member Attendees: Chairman Dylan Wilbanks, Vice Chairman Chris Nichols, Wade Johnson, Kevin Poe, and Tommy Benton.

Also Present: Attorney Paul Smart; Authority Staff - Joey Leslie, Mark Dudziak, Harold Garrison, Judy Smith, Karen Long, Caleb Baughcum, Amy Bales, Lisa Grainger, Jordan Waters, Ronna Berrong, Matt Wyatt.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Vice Chairman Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2024 meeting.

Member Benton seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no objection, and all board members present voted.

Operating Reports

Finance Director Judy Smith presented operating reports for February 2024, highlighting:

- 143.2 million gallons purchased, 119.2 million gallons sold.
- 15.9 million gallons used for flushing.
- 51.5% increase in billed water usage, 36% increase in sewer usage, compared to a year ago.
- February 2024 gain of 56 water and 43 sewer customers.
- Workorders completed - 622
- Backflow tests completed - 50

New Business

Cost of Services Analysis Presentation and Recommendations

Manager Leslie said, as you are aware, our team at the Authority has been diligently developing Water and Sewer Master Plans. Alongside these plans, we've also put together a Capital Improvement Plan, outlining what we believe to be essential and feasible projects for sustaining operations and accommodating unprecedented rapid growth.

Robert (Bobby) Sills presented the findings from his Cost of Services Analysis.

Manager Leslie said following the insights gained from this analysis, we are suggesting the introduction of new connection fees and considering possible increases in usage rates.

Staff Comments:

The Analysis considers three potential situations:

- a. A preferred scenario that includes anticipated Capital Improvement Projects.
- b. A scenario where the Jackson County Government assumes responsibility for the debt related to the expansion of the Bear Creek Water Treatment Plant.
- c. A hypothetical situation based on the premise of halting all new developments, focusing solely on fulfilling existing obligations.

Recommendation:

Recommend putting the attached new rate schedule into effect immediately. Should this rate schedule be approved, the Board might then consider immediately revoking the Suspension of Residential Taps Resolution.

Alternative Recommendations:

1. The Board may choose to implement the 10% recommended base fee and usage rate increase now (both water and sewer), a portion thereof, or wait to reconsider usage increases starting in January 2025.
2. Should the new rates fail to be adopted, the staff advises adopting the enclosed Water Connection Purchasing Policy. In the absence of these new rates, it's recommended that the quantity of water and sewer taps purchased be restricted.

Vice Chairman Nichols made a motion to approve the water and sewer connection fees and the 5% rate increase as presented.

Member Poe seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no objection, and all board members present voted.

Vice Chairman Nichols made a motion to rescind the temporary suspension resolution.

Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no objection, and all board members present voted with the exception of Member Benton who abstained.

Department Reports

Wastewater

Total gallons treated: 25.47 million
Monthly Average : .882 mgd
Monthly Peak: .954 mgd
Sewer Connections Inspected in March: 16

Monthly Highlights:

Completed 195 work orders.

The collections team continues to work on CMOM ("capacity, management, operations, and maintenance.") and Sewer Rat inspections.

The wastewater plant team is working to adjust plant operations due to higher daily flows which has proven to be challenging.

Water

- 56 taps
- Moved equipment and materials to new building, installed shelving
- Cleaned and inspected pump stations
- Checked all vaults
- Repaired 4 hydrants
- Cleaned out 3 taps
- Repaired a service line
- 923 locates, marked 309 water 173 sewer

IT

- Continuing set up at new building and new wastewater office.

Engineering

- Successful flushing
- PFAS regulations

Manager

- Next board meeting will be in our new building.
- Continuing to develop wells.
- Focus will be shifting to new projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Karen Long
Board Secretary