

Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2024

Chairman Chris Nichols convened the Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 8, 2024.

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

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

Approval of Previous Minutes

Member Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2024 meeting.

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

Operating Reports

Director Judy Smith presented operating reports for June 2024, highlighting:

- 186 million gallons purchased, 133.5 million gallons sold.
- 35.9 million gallons used for flushing.
- 30.9% increase in billed water usage, 38% increase in sewer usage, compared to a year ago.
- Gain of 91 water and 80 sewer customers.
- Workorders completed - 622
- Backflow tests completed – 55
- Aging meter change out – 75
- New installations – 47

New Business

Election of Officers

Attorney Smart said we have a vacancy in the Chairman position that needs to be filled.

Member Poe nominated Chris Nichols for Chairman. Member Ehrhardt seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no objection, and all board members present voted.

Chairman Nichols nominated Member Benton as vice chairman. Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no objection, and all board members present voted.

Chairman Nichols said the audit presentation has been moved to the next month.

Purchase Request 24-inch Pipe

Manager Leslie said we have one major SPLOST project remaining, Highway 129 Loop. This project proposes a new 24-inch water line running from Lebanon Church Road to Brock Road. He said the project's original cost was estimated at \$1,000,000 in 2015. However, significant inflation, market increases, and the need for a larger pipe diameter have made this estimate obsolete.

Manager Leslie said the approved budget for the Highway 129 Loop project is \$2,380,122, with current cash available in the SPLOST fund totaling \$2,093,190. At this time, the updated costs and construction methods for the project are yet to be determined as we are considering whether to utilize JCWSA's resources for the waterline construction or to seek external construction bids. However, the engineering component of the project is expected to be completed internally by our team.

Manager Leslie said the staff recommendation is to approve the purchase of \$1,205,559 from ElectroSteel for 24-inch Ductile Iron Pipe (DIP) and Authorize the Authority Manager to execute all agreements to purchase the pipe.

The Board posed questions to staff regarding warranties and tax considerations, to which staff did not have adequate answers available.

Member Poe made a motion to table this agenda item.

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

Proposed Personnel Policy Manual Changes

Manager Leslie said employees have expressed a desire to add Juneteenth, June 19th, to our paid holiday schedule. This is a federal and state-observed holiday.

Member Poe made a motion to adopt Juneteenth to the JCWSA holiday schedule.

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

Department Reports

Engineering

- Several employees attended the GAWP Annual Conference
- Nathan Hester gave a presentation on pump stations at the conference

Water

- 1347 work order completed
- Installed five meter stubs
- Replaced two fire hydrants

- Repaired six fire hydrants
- Leak checks – five
- Repaired two main line breaks
- Repaired one service line leak
- Installed three pressure loggers on hydrants
- Killed one tap at Highway 124 and Highway 11
- Pressure and flow tested fire hydrant on Jarret Road
- Repaired flow meter at Galilee
- Exercised 1320 valves
- Processed 1070 locates – marked 187 sewer and 311 water

Wastewater

- MOWWTP Total gallons treated: 23.60 million Monthly Average : .787 mgd Monthly Peak: .906 mgd.
- Sewer Connections Inspected in July: 29.
- Completed 354 work orders last month.
- Monthly Highlights:
- We had several Lift station issues caused by power drops on 3 phase lines throughout the collection system last month.
- Cleaned out the Valentine Park Lift station removing 21 dry tons of trash. (42 total system wide in 2024).
- Removed a 200 pound rag ball from the Doster Creek Lift station that caused several issues.
- Collection System Operator Jackson Prickett earned his Water Distribution certification and is now dual certified in water and wastewater.

IT

- Utility outages with power and the internet. Working through those issues.
- Generator on order.
- Setting up internet back up to help with service interruptions.

Chairman Report

Chairman Nichols stated that JCWSA is an independent government agency. He said we don't collect taxes and have not received SPLOST since 2011. Chairman Nichols said our customers are the rate payers. He said if a line breaks or there is a rag ball clog at the sewer plant, it's the rate payer's monthly bills that pay for those repairs. He also said the Water Authority is not the zoning or planning department. Chairman Nichols said we are not here to promote or determine growth or make developers money our cause them delays. We are here to serve the residents and businesses of Jackson County with reliable, safe, high quality water and sewer services. Chairman Nichols said there are a lot of costs associated with providing those services like labor, energy, chemicals and regulatory costs. This ensures that are water and sewerage meets federal, state and local requirements. Chairman Nichols said the Authority staff is committed to serving the community with integrity, transparency and responsiveness and to ensure we meet the needs of today while planning for the demands of tomorrow.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Karen Long
Board Secretary