

**JACKSON COUNTY WATER
AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY**

MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2013

Chairman Ehrhardt called the January 10, 2013 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 Dean Stringer, Board Member Pat Bell and Board Member David Lathem. Also present: Manager Eric Klerk, Attorney Paul Smart, CIO/GIS Analyst Mike Johnson, Engineer Joey Leslie, Finance Director Judy Davis, Water Manager Stacy Jenkins, Wastewater Manager Mark Dudziak, and Board Secretary Karen Johnson. Visitors included Jerry Hood and Chip McGaughey with EMI Engineering, Tom Crow, BOC Chairman and Mark Beardsley with Main Street Newspapers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Storey made a motion to approve the December 6, 2012 work session minutes and the December 6, 2012 called meeting minutes.

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

Chairman Ehrhardt presented the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from GFOA. He stated this is the Authority's fifth time in a row to receive this award. He congratulated Finance Director Davis, Manager Klerk and the Authority staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Wastewater Plant Progress Update

Manager Klerk stated EMI is in attendance to present a site overview of what is going to take place at the plant and update the Board on the USDA grant.

Chip McGaughey updated the Board on the dewatering facility (phase 3) and the secondary clarifier and chlorination upgrade (phase 2).

Manager Klerk said we are close to submitting phase two to the EPD for their approval. He asked Chip how soon the plans will be submitted to the EPD. Chip stated the plans be will submitted to the EPD in about three weeks. After their approval the plans will be submitted to the USDA for approval to receive the grant money. Jerry Hood said the USDA will issue a letter of conditions and request a meeting with the Authority.

Wheeler Cemetery Water Pump Station Design Update

Manager Klerk said this in house project is at about a 60% design stage. He stated we would need Board approval for use of the leftover 2005 SPLOST funds for the construction of the replacement station at this inter-connection with Commerce.

Engineer Leslie gave the Board a set of plans and updated them on what has taken place with the design. Chairman Ehrhardt asked what the estimate is. Manager Klerk said the budgeted amount is \$ 355,000. Engineer Leslie said we are very close to the budgeted amount.

Member Bell and Chairman Ehrhardt asked if the building was large enough to add a third pump in the future if needed. Engineer Leslie said the building is not large enough for a third pump but we could make it large enough to accommodate one. Water Manager Jenkins said we are looking at having two pumps with an emergency diesel powered pump which could operate separately for back up.

Member Bell and Member Lathem asked about the cost of a third pump and additional square footage. Water Manager Jenkins said he felt we did not need three pumps. He stated you would not want to run three pumps at the same time and that there would be no real gain from doing so. He said we could upgrade the size of the pumps or their impellers instead. Member Lathem suggested designing the building in a way that it can be added on to.

Manager Klerk said the design is for an average of one million gallons of water per day both ways with a peak capable of one and one-half million gallons per day. He said we hope to have a meeting with the City of Commerce soon.

Manager Klerk asked the Board if they wanted us to look at a larger design for the building. Engineer Leslie said he could accommodate the design for larger pumps.

Water Service Requests

Manager Klerk reported right before Christmas the Authority was approached by several residents living on Roquemore Road requesting water service. Roquemore Road is off of Highway 129 near the Athens-Clark County line and has 22 residents. He said eleven residents responded yes to our survey requesting water, two responded no and the remaining residents have not yet responded.

Manager Klerk explained we would run a 12" ductile iron line down Highway 129 to Roquemore Road. He said there might be about \$100,000 still left over from the 2005 SPLOST money after the Wheeler Cemetery project that could be applied to the estimated \$130,000 cost of the project. He said we could run a 6" ductile iron line with fire service into the neighborhood for an additional \$158,000.

Manager Klerk said it might be possible to create a special tax district to fund the projects. That would require approval of 67% of those voting in favor and public hearings. Our attorneys' are not recommending this route. It would be a tremendous tax burden due to the limited number of parcels involved. He said another avenue would be to initiate a special fee assessed to the recipients of the project instead of a tax (the Authority cannot charge a tax).

This was dismissed as well due to the cost per customer is too high. Manager Klerk said the Neighborhood Water Policy is not designed for this type of project and would not apply.

Member Bell stated she felt it was important to extend the water line down Highway 129. She asked how many feet down Highway 129 to Roquemore Road. Manager Klerk responded 2,200 feet. She also asked how far we are from the Athens-Clark County line. CIO/GIS Johnson said 13,000 feet.

Member Bell asked how dire the need for water on Roquemore Road is. Engineer Leslie stated that some of the residents are desperate. He said that wells are going dry or are inadequate.

Member Bell asked if we have the funds to do this project. Manager Klerk said "yes" the Authority could fund the entire project if it absolutely had to.

Chairman Ehrhardt stated it could take 20 years to break even on our costs.

Member Lathem stated that if we used the remaining SPLOST dollars on this project we would be out of money and there might be other emergency projects in the future.

Manager Klerk stated that the Ramblers Inn Road area in Arcade is in the same position as Roquemore Road. He said presently nine residents responded "yes" to our survey requesting water as well as one "maybe". There are 43 residents in this area.

Manager Klerk said the estimate is for 6" ductile iron pipe with fire service and would cost approximately \$188,000. He said that this project would not fall under our Neighborhood Water Service Policy either.

Manager Klerk stated our attorneys are suggesting a more comprehensive line extension policy. Attorney Smart said the policy would determine how the requests are handled taking into account the severity of the need, cost and distance from the water line. He said we need clear distinctions.

Member Bell asked if we can afford to do both projects and have contingency monies left. Manager Klerk said "yes".

Member Bell stated the purpose of this Authority is to provide water to people. Chairman Ehrhardt responded "yes, but we also have a financial responsibility".

Chairman Ehrhardt stated he would like to have additional information on both requests before a decision is made.

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05p.m.

Karen Johnson
Board Secretary