

Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority

Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2014

Chairman Ehrhardt called the June 12, 2014 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, Member Bell and Board Member Joe Hicks. Also present: Manager Eric Klerk, Attorney Paul Smart, Finance Director Judy Smith, Engineer Joey Leslie, Water/Wastewater Manager Mark Dudziak, CIO/GIS Analyst Mike Johnson. Visitors included, Alex Pace, Main Street Newspapers

Approval of Minutes

Member Bell made a motion to approve the May 8, 2014 board meeting minutes.

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

New Business

Presentation of the 2013 Draft Audited Financials

Manager Klerk introduced Beth Grimes with Bates, Carter, LLC. Ms. Grimes presented the 2013 Draft Audited Financials. She said the opinion that Bates, Carter issued is an unmodified audit opinion, meaning the financial statements are consistent with GASB accounting standards. Ms. Grimes asked the Board if they had any questions. She thanked the Authority staff; in particular, Finance Director Smith for her professional accounting practices.

Staff Proposed Water Connection Fees

Manager Klerk said last month Chairman Ehrhardt asked what our actual costs of a water connection are. He stated a cost analysis was prepared and he presented the analysis to the Board. Manager Klerk said presently, we charge \$1,500.00 for a ¾" water tap along with a \$40.00 administration fee. He stated the actual cost is \$1,682.00. Manager Klerk stated a 2" connection actually costs \$5,118.00 and we currently charge \$4,000.00. He stated sometimes we have to hire out in order to do larger bores under a highway, so this increases the cost as well.

Manager Klerk said the staff is proposing a 33% increase for a ¾" through 1.5" connection and a 50% increase for a 2" and above. He stated that if we do this increase, we will still be behind most of our surrounding neighbors.

Member Lathem asked when the last increase took place. Finance Director Smith said in 2007 or 2008. Manager Klerk said he would have that information available at the next board meeting.

Member Bell asked if the increase would take place immediately. Manager Klerk said a decision doesn't have to be made tonight. He said the staff can look at the sewer tap fees too and present that in July.

Chairman Ehrhardt said the Board would review the water connection fee increases and he felt the Authority should look into sewer tap fees as well and directed Manager Klerk to do so.

No action was taken.

Managers Report

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Manager Klerk said the clarifier concrete work is done, it's filled with water and they are doing the leak test now. The line to the sludge return station is in and the splitter boxes are being installed. That leaves the clarifier mechanical guts to be installed and piping to be tied into the aeration basin.

Possum Creek Lift Station is now out for public bid. This project is an upgrade to correct the unequally sized pumps that are presently both sized wrong. The bid opening is right before the July meeting. We are currently pushing 40,000 gallons a day in sewer flow from Toyota into an entire system that has historically seen 100,000 gallons a day.

Water

Manager Klerk said we are selling a lot of water to Braselton; over one million gallons a day. He said billings will be approximately \$78,000 a month. Manager Klerk said this is an operational challenge. We have to keep Highway 124 elevated storage full in order to gravity feed the water to Highway 60. We are pumping almost 3,000 gallons per minute out of the Galilee pumping station at a pressure of about 200 psi to achieve this..

Water Tower Maintenance

Engineer Leslie said preparations are being made to publicly bid the water tower maintenance. It will go out for bid in July and results presented at August board meeting.

Wheeler Cemetery Pump Station

The building is pretty much complete and the contractor is working on the piping.

Fire Line Policy

Customers have been notified and two letters, one in March and one in May have been sent certified mail with explanations of the new policy to take effect in July. The May letters consisted of two letters, one went to six to seven customers showing they were facing a maximum penalty unless they took corrective action. The second letter went to remaining customers stating they need to be vigilant and continue to reduce their risk of penalties.

Bear Creek

Wholesale water has picked up; our usage so far shows we are out-purchasing Barrow and Oconee Counties.

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Karen Johnson
Board Secretary