

JACKSON COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

WORK SESSION

January 7, 2010

Chairman Pugh called the work session to order at 5:34p.m. Members present included Chairman Randall Pugh, Vice Chairman Dave Ehrhardt, Board Member Andy Goodman, Board Member Shade Storey and Board Member Dr. Neel. Also present: Manager Eric Klerk, Attorney Paul Smart, CIO/GIS Analyst Mike Johnson, Chief Engineer Fred Alke, Wastewater Manager Mark Dudziak, Water Manager Stacy Jenkins and Finance Director Judy Davis and Board Secretary Karen Johnson. Visitors included Mark Beardsley with The Main Street News, Katie Dunn with The Paper, Mayor Erma Denney, Councilman Jim Higginbottom, Councilwoman Sandie Romer, B.J. Bragg and Mary Ann Kenerly

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED

Draft Operational Agreement for Hoschton

Chairman Pugh introduced guest, Hoschton Mayor Erma Denney, and asked her to introduce the council members with her. He summarized what had transpired regarding the mutual aid agreement for Hoschton since early December and the potential operating agreement for the city. He stated the City of Hoschton is now purchasing 100% of its water from JCWSA. Chairman Pugh asked Manager Klerk to elaborate on the actions that have taken place to assist the City of Hoschton.

Manager Klerk said the Authority has stepped up and honored the mutual aid agreement and will be happy to continue to do so to a point down the road. Manager Klerk explained that due to the conditions this was a public health concern and the Authority really didn't have a choice anyway. He added that problems with the well water Hoschton was using were numerous. He said they switched entirely to JCWSA water on December 21 with the support of Mayor Denney.

Chairman Pugh asked Mayor Denney if she would like to explain what assistance she is looking for. Mayor Denney thanked the Water Authority for stepping up to help them. She detailed the situation with their water system and what role JCWSA has played in the mutual aid agreement. Mayor Denney commented on all the positive responses to the water condition from the Hoschton water customers. She asked that the contract be fair due to their current financial situation. Chairman Pugh said he understands their situation and the contract will be fair but our primary responsibility is to the rate payers of the Authority and the tax payers of this county. He said that Manager Klerk estimated around \$90,000 a year would probably cover the cost but we have a better feel for it now and can be more exact. Chairman Pugh said any unexpected capital items would have to be covered by the city. He asked Mayor Denney if she knew what they would be able to pay.

Manager Klerk said he strongly recommended staying with the \$3.00 per 1000 gal wholesale rates in fairness to our other city water customers but in light of their financial situation, he felt we could back off of the \$90,000.00 operating number. He stated he would like to extend the mutual aid agreement at least until the first of March and re-examine the situation at the March work session. Wastewater Manger Dudziak said the middle of March would be better. Manager Klerk said he would give an update at the February board meeting.

Member Goodman asked how many customers Hoschton has. Mayor Denney said 667. Member Goodman asked what their long term goals are. Mayor Denney said they have hundreds of potential residential taps that they would love to complete.

Member Neel asked how many years long term was. Attorney Smart said one year.

Vice Chairman Ehrhardt asked if we would have to hire any additional help. Manger Klerk said “no”.

Chairman Pugh asked Attorney Smart if there was any problem with extending the mutual aid agreement beyond thirty days. Attorney Smart said no but he will take a look at the agreement and the board may need to take action to extend it at the next meeting.

Chairman Pugh said this item will be moved to the agenda for the January 14th board meeting.

No action was taken.

Chairman Pugh adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm

Karen Johnson
Board Secretary