

**JACKSON COUNTY WATER
AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY**

MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2013

Chairman Ehrhardt called the April 11, 2013 Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority Board Meeting to order at 6:03 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/Wastewater Manager Mark Dudziak, and Board Secretary Karen Johnson. Visitors included Mark Beardsley, Main Street Newspapers and Jeff Sturm, Ramblers Inn Road.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Storey made a motion to approve the March 14, 2013 board meeting minutes as presented.

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

Old Business

Update on Roquemore Road and Ramblers Inn Road Project

Manager Klerk reminded the board of the criteria for the Roquemore Road and Ramblers Inn Road projects; fourteen residents for Ramblers Inn and nine for Roquemore. He stated a letter went out to all residents announcing the news that the Board has approved moving forward with the design and construction of water lines in their area and at their earliest convenience please come in to sign up for water service. Manager Klerk stated as of today we have six residents that have signed up on Ramblers Inn Road and eleven on Roquemore Road.

Manager Klerk stated that Roquemore Road is a "go" and we will run a 12" ductile iron line down that piece of Highway 129. He said probably as early as the May meeting the Board will vote to allocate the 2005 leftover SPLOST dollars for the Highway 129 portion of the project and then use our Neighborhood Water Line Policy for going into the neighborhood.

Manager Klerk said regarding Ramblers Inn Road; the six customers that did sign up are clustered together on one side of the loop. He stated the people that did sign up in that area appear to be desperate for water so we looked for an alternative. Manager Klerk said Engineer Leslie did a quick design using two inch pipe and just servicing that lower end of the loop. He said the estimated cost of that project falls below our minimum policy requirement of \$8,340 per customer. Manger Klerk said this is something the Board may want to consider.

He and Engineer Leslie detailed how this would be accomplished answering various technical questions from the Board.

One question in particular was would two inch pipe be sufficient. It was also asked how many customers would a two inch line serve and what happens in the future regarding growth. Manager Klerk said using our water model and performing pressure tests after the line is installed will allow for us to determine the amount of customers it will be able to service. He said there will have to be a cut off of about ten to twelve customers and it would be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Engineer Leslie said if we made a complete loop we could serve all forty-three properties on a two inch line.

Chairman Ehrhardt asked what the difference in price would be for two inch versus four inch lines. Engineer Leslie said around \$2.00 a foot plus installation costs.

Manager Klerk added that we sent all residents questionnaires and a follow up letter and went door to door in order to promote this project.

Manager Klerk reiterated that our new policy states the cost can be no more than \$8,340 per customer based on a twenty-year payback. He stated that using two inch pipe is cheaper than four inch pipe but that is not necessarily a better way.

Manager Klerk said that this alternative scenario would be an amendment to our existing policy and there was concurrence by Attorney Smart.

Member Lathem felt it should reflect that we added this amendment due to the lack of required number of residents signing up for service. The required number established by our policy was fourteen and we only had six residents sign up. Our Board and the Authority Staff felt this was an urgent situation for these six residents so the alternative scenario was proposed in order to provide those residents water.

Chairman Ehrhardt asked how many more residents it would take in order to use a four inch line. Engineer Leslie said it would take one more resident.

Mr. Strum said he has given an easement for a water line to his neighbor behind him. He explained the need for water for himself and his neighbors.

Manager Klerk said he was looking for direction from the Board.

Attorney Smart stated the size of the pipe used is a technical matter not a policy matter and is up to the discretion of the Authority staff.

Engineer Leslie said if he takes out the contingency we would meet the \$8,340 criteria with six customers. He stated if the project is under \$100,000 we would get several quotes but we don't have to go through a formal public bid process. This would help with the time factor.

Chairman Storey made a motion to approve an amendment to the Ramblers Inn Road water project to reflect the four inch line (without fire flow) proposal presented by the Authority Engineer and contingent upon receipt of initial connection fees and water service contracts from six customers.

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

Manager Klerk stated there are no changes to the Roquemore Road project. He said as of today we have eleven residents that have signed up and our minimum was nine. He reiterated the Board will need to vote to allocate the 2005 leftover SPLOST dollars for the Highway 129 portion of the project and then use our Neighborhood Water Line Policy for going into the neighborhood. Manager Klerk said this could be voted on at the May meeting. He stated that we are not using any SPLOST funds for the design work so we will proceed with designing the project.

New Business

Georgia Department of Transportation 129 Widening Project/Pressure Zone Reconfiguration

Manager Klerk informed the Board that the Georgia DOT is widening Highway 129 in Talmo and we just received the plans for it. He stated that GDOT said we were informed in 2009 of this project. Manager Klerk said we went through all our scanned plans and former Engineer's documents and emails but did not locate anything regarding this project. He said it is possible GDOT sent the plans to the wrong agency.

Manager Klerk said this project is going out for bid in July so it puts us on a tight timeframe. He stated we are in their right-of-way and it would cost roughly \$350,000 to move our twelve inch main line. Manager Klerk said we are proposing abandoning this particular section of line. He said we do not have any water customers in that area. He said in order to abandon this line and keep the water system working properly, the plan is to take the pressure zone line and move it down to take in Wayne Poultry Road putting it in a higher pressure zone. Manager Klerk stated the system's water model showed this scenario would work. He said this would be more cost effective.

Manager Klerk stated there is a six inch line further up Highway 129 that needs to be moved and that cost is roughly \$60,000. He stated we do have customers on that line.

Chairman Ehrhardt asked if GDOT is aware that we are proposing to abandon the line. Engineer Leslie said we have until the 15th to mark up the plans. Chairman Ehrhardt asked if we would fill or cap the line. Manager Klerk said GDOT will tell us what they prefer. It was discussed that it would be less expensive to fill the line as opposed to removing it.

Chairman Ehrhardt asked if we had an estimate on the cost of the asset. Finance Director Davis said it is all grouped together so we will just have to estimate the cost of the asset. She said it could be expensed immediately and we would leave the asset alone.

Traditions I Lift Station Emergency Repair

Water/Wastewater Manager Dudziak said the soft starter at Traditions I Lift Station was “fried” and had to be replaced. He said the installed cost was \$7,219.90 and the broken soft starter can be refurbished and installed for a price of \$4,464.

A discussion ensued as to the practicality of paying for a refurbished piece of equipment and the warranty running out before we might need to use it. The lift station is also slated for an upgrade to variable speed pumps within the next year and it is in the 2013 Capital Projects portion of the budget. Turnaround time was also discussed as well as the refurbished piece of equipment only being a savings of \$2,800

Member Stringer asked what the Authority’s recommendation is. Water/Wastewater Manager Dudziak said purchasing the refurbished one to have has a spare.

Manager Klerk said this was an emergency so we had to have the work done immediately but the cost of the soft starter already purchased is above his \$5,000 spending limit. He stated with equipment costs in this day and age a \$5,000 spending limit is not high enough.

Member Lathem made a motion to approve the purchase of the new soft starter for \$7,219.90.

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

Managers Report

The Walton Group properties requested “will-serve” water letters a couple of weeks ago for their two properties in South Jackson, Arcade Meadows and GlenRidge Park. These letters have a number of conditions tied to their ultimate validity by the Authority and expire in two years. According to their representative they are supposed to submit an updated conceptual plan. The reason I’m talking about this right now is that it has been a long-standing policy of the Board through or Standards and Specs that any project that is ultimately expected to use 50,000 gallons per day or more needs prior Board approval.

Wheeler Cemetery Road Pump Station Update: The design is 90% complete. We have received the electrical back from Atlanta Consulting which includes the design of service and panels. This project has been put on hold due to a possible issue with the proposed Water Sales Agreement. The proposed Agreement takes into account the sale of water to either party so it was my opinion that the fixed fee of \$3000.00 per month the Authority has always paid Commerce be nullified since Authority water would be made available to Commerce as well when needed. The last indication I received in an email indicated that they wanted the fixed fee to remain in effect. I have asked for clarification.

The painting of the logos on the two water towers that were recently painted, Arcade and Highway 124, has been delayed now due to the tanks sweating profusely.

The Authority Audit has been completed. It is currently under review by the Bates, Carter partners and is free of findings.

Lastly, the Authority has received written approval from Georgia EPD for the construction of the secondary clarifier and chemical building upgrades at the Wastewater Plant. Since the project is being partially funded by the Appalachian Regional commission the plans and specs must now be approved by the USDA.

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Karen Johnson
Board Secretary