

Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority

Meeting Minutes October 9, 2014

Chairman Ehrhardt called the September 11, 2014 Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority Board Meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Members present included Chairman Dave Ehrhardt, Vice Chairman Shade Storey and Board Member Joe Hicks. Also present: Manager Eric Klerk, Attorney Paul Smart, Engineer Joey Leslie, Water/Wastewater Manager Mark Dudziak, CIO/GIS Analyst Mike Johnson, Finance Director Judy Smith and Board Secretary Karen Johnson. Visitors: Mark Restivo, JCWSA Customer and Thomas Mitchell, Attorney.

Chairman Ehrhardt moved agenda item #3 under new business to agenda item #1 under new business.

Approval of Minutes

Member Hicks made a motion to approve the September 11, 2014 board meeting minutes.

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

Billing Dispute

Chairman Ehrhardt introduced Dr. Restivo and explained he was in attendance to discuss a billing dispute. Manager Klerk said he spoke with Dr. Restivo several times regarding his bill. He explained that he told Dr. Restivo that the Authority recommended a pressure reducing valve just past his meter. Manager Klerk said the line from the meter to the house is what broke. He said he told Dr. Restivo to file a billing dispute so there would be a record on file and that we would allow a onetime leak adjustment.

Dr. Restivo gave a brief explanation of what happened and explained that he felt he should not be responsible for the bill. He asked if we monitor our customers' meters. Finance Director Davis said our billing supervisors call customers with high usage.

Chairman Ehrhardt said we can offer a onetime leak adjustment but nothing more. Dr. Restivo said he does not agree with that and will be consulting his legal team.

Old Business

Personnel Policy Revisions

Chairman Ehrhardt tabled this item until the November meeting.

New Business

Affirmation of the Authority's Sewer Service Area

Manager Klerk introduced attorney Thomas Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell said he is representing Walton Group. He explained Walton Group is re-applying for railroad permits for water and sewer line pipe sleeves. Mr. Thomas said Walton did not want the Authority to think they were doing anything nefarious. He explained Walton would be resubmitting the utility crossing permit application to the JCWSA so the JCWSA can sign off on the permit application as being the provider for both water and sewer at that location. This is a CSX requirement for the crossing approval. He further stated, "It is the Authority's water and sewer territory".

Amendment to Agreement for Sanitary Sewer Service Billing Between The City of Jefferson and Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority

Manager Klerk explained this agreement is a renewal of a contract that has been in place for ten years and had recently expired. Finance Director Smith explained that the contract allows for the intergovernmental billing for a limited number of sewer customers in their respective delineated sewer territories. Also, that item #4 (rate schedule) has been added to the contract. She said that is the only change to the agreement.

Vice Chairman Storey made a motion to approve the Agreement for Sanitary Sewer Service Billing Between The City of Jefferson and Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority as presented and executed by the Authority Chairman and Secretary.

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

Introduction to Proposed Capital Projects for the 2015 Budget

Manager Klerk gave a presentation on what is in the capital portion of the proposed 2015 budget. The following items are some of the major proposed projects.

MOWWTP Sludge Dewatering, Phase 3 (\$750,000): to facilitate the off-site removal of sludge generated by the activated sludge process at the treatment plant through a unit designed to dewater sludge efficiently, saving money in hauling and landfill disposal.

Talmo Pump Station (\$400,000): to increase the available water to meet the needs of the City of Braselton (within the Highway 60 pressure zone) in times of high demand and help reduce the operating pressures on lines past the Galilee Pump Station.

Bear Creek Pump, Conversion to VFD (\$125,000: to allow the utilization of a third pump that is currently not in use due to the pumping characteristics the present direct-drive set-up (196 psi), providing increased redundancy to our primary water source. Our system operates with discharge water from Bear Creek at 160 psi.

Background: Based on a recent engineering study by Jacobs Engineering, increased clearwell (treated water storage capacity) at the plant is adequate and the cost of interconnecting the Barrow, Oconee and Jackson pumps to provide redundancy is not justified at the time. The study brings to light that Jackson County could increase its redundancy for its customers by upgrading the third pump, Pump #8, to a VFD. This would also increase the life of the two VFD pumps (6&7) currently in use.

Georgia Power Tank/PS Upgrade (\$500,000): to incorporate 1,000,000 gallons of unused water storage into the Southeast portion of the county. The Authority desperately needs increased water storage capacity and this is an inexpensive way to increase it. See handout.

East Jackson Tank/PS Upgrade (\$300,000): to incorporate 200,000 gallons of unused water storage into the system inexpensively and stabilize pressures in the Authority's eastern-most service area.

Manager Klerk discussed a possible loan to preserve some of our cash. He said we can get a 2.82%, ten year fixed rate with no prepayment penalty. See sample amortization schedule.

Managers Report

MOWWTP, Clarifier Phase 2, is substantially complete. The project will be closed-out in about thirty days. U.S.D.A. Rural Development performed their final inspection Wednesday, October 8th.

Attorney Smart asked if agenda item "Affirmation of the Authority's Sewer Service Area" is to be tabled or taken off. Manager Klerk said table it and then we can come back to it any time after Walton re-files the CSX railroad permits.

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Karen Johnson
Board Secretary