

Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority
Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2015

Chairman Ehrhardt called the November 12, 2015 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 Pat Bell, Board Member Joe Hicks and Board Member Dylan Wilbanks.

Also present: Attorney Paul Smart, Manager Eric Klerk, Authority Engineer Joey Leslie, Finance Director Judy Smith, Water/Wastewater Manager Mark Dudziak, CIO/GIS Analyst Mike Johnson and Board Secretary Karen Johnson. Visitors included Katy Cofer, Main Street Newspapers and John Ring, Nicholson Water Authority.

Approval of Minutes

Member Wilbanks made a motion to approve the October 8, 2015 board meeting minutes.

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

Chairman Ehrhardt reviewed the financials.

Chairman Ehrhardt presented Finance Director Smith the award of Financial Reporting Achievement of Excellence. Manager Klerk added this is the eighth consecutive year for receiving this award.

Old Business

Proposed Defined Benefit Plan

Chairman Ehrhardt stated this item was tabled from a previous meeting in order to acquire more information regarding the plan.

Manager Klerk stated Georgia Municipal Association is the organization that would manage the plan and they are the same company that manages our health care benefits. He stated the proposed defined benefit plan is tied directly to the proposed 2016 JCWSA budget.

Manager Klerk said not having a defined benefit plan impacts our ability to compete in the job market when hiring employees. It also effects employee retention.

Member Bell had questions regarding the formula used to arrive at a monthly benefit amount. Finance Director Smith said a calculation of 1.5% along with years of service and average salary is what makes up the monthly benefit. She gave several scenarios of different retirement ages and how it would affect the employee's monthly benefit.

Finance Director Smith stated the percent of the salary and benefits portion of the budget is 1.35% of the entire proposed operating budget.

Manager Klerk said an actuarial service through GMA is responsible for determining how much to fund the plan. He stated the plan goes before their actuaries every year.

Finance Director Smith said this plan can be discontinued at any time. She said the GMA representative stated projected annual contributions were not expected to go up more than two percent per year. Finance Director Smith said there is a master plan and by adopting an amendment the plan can be changed by the Board.

Member Wilbanks made a motion to approve authorizing the adoption of the GMA Defined Benefit Plan as presented as well as authorizing Chairman Ehrhardt to sign the document.

Member Bell seconded the motion. The motion carried with Chairman Ehrhardt and Board Members Bell, Hicks and Wilbanks voting yes and Vice Chairman Storey voting no.

New Business

Proposed 2016 JCWSA Budget

Manager Klerk stated the proposed 2016 JCWSA budget is slightly less than last year even though the addition of two new employees and the defined benefit plan was included. He stated water sales revenue contributed to this. Manager Klerk pointed out the Authority will also be paying half of the Bear Creek debt service to the County beginning in January, 2016.

Chairman Ehrhardt discussed the O & M costs at Bear Creek. Finance Director Smith said those increases are in the 2016 capital budget.

Manager Klerk said sometime in the next several months he will be presenting an update on Bear Creek.

Several items were discussed on the capital budget and Chairman Ehrhardt noted that construction costs are on the rise and to make sure we had enough in the contingency portion of the budget.

Member Bell made a motion to approve the 2016 Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority Operating Budget and Capital Budget as presented.

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

Executive Session

Member Bell made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

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

Member Hicks made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

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

No action taken.

Manager's Report

The sludge press at the wastewater plant is still on schedule to be delivered November 19th.

Meetings are being held with City of Jefferson on an intergovernmental agreement involving the transfer of wastewater from Jefferson to the Authority's plant on Highway 11 and our ability to pump wastewater to Jefferson's I-85 plant (Valentine Park Lift Station proposed project).

We had an EPD sanitary survey of our water system; we are in compliance. We are now classified as a medium to large water system.

We are still working with Jefferson on continuing participation in Parks Creek Reservoir and are developing a Cost Methodology with the help of Mark Crisp's firm and Attorney Smart.

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Karen Johnson,
Board Secretary