

**Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 14, 2016**

Chairman Ehrhardt called the January 14, 2016 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 Pat Bell and Board Member Joe Hicks.

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 Angela Gary, Main Street Newspapers, Gary Massey, Customer and Mike Barfield, Nicholson City Council.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Member Bell made a motion to approve the November 12, 2015 board meeting minutes.

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

Finance Director Smith reviewed the financials.

### **New Business**

#### *Gary Massey, Billing Dispute*

Manager Klerk explained Mr. Massey has disputed his water bill and gave a brief synopsis of the situation. He explained Mr. Massey contacted customer service stating his bill has increased but his lifestyle hasn't changed.

Manager Klerk said that the e-coder data showed an intermittent leak. He stated the billing dispute was denied by the billing dispute committee after the meter test came back from Delta indicating accurate registering. He said that Mr. Massey is also requesting reimbursement for his plumbers' bill. Manager Klerk said the latest e-coder report shows there still is an intermittent leak.

Mr. Massey presented his side of the issue to the Board. Chairman Ehrhardt said the data shows there is an intermittent leak and since the meter tested accurate we have to adhere to Board policy and honor the billing committees' decision. He said he is in favor of waving the penalties. Manager Klerk said that can be done and recommended offering Mr. Massey a leak adjustment, with the Board concurring.

#### *DOT Contract Execution*

Manager Klerk said this is the long standing GDOT project of widening Highway 129 that goes from Talmo into Hall County.

He said the contract is in the Board packet and needs to be executed. Manager Klerk said the contract gives the GDOT the ability to construct our water main portion of the project through their contractor.

Engineer Leslie stated our limited cost is a not-to-exceed \$275,000. He said GDOT agreed to put a ceiling on the price back when the project was initiated.

Chairman Ehrhardt asked what the status of the project is. Manager Klerk said they want all the utilities to execute the contract and will be starting this spring. He said the contract guarantees the work is performed to our standards and we have the right to inspect the work.

Attorney Smart stated he has reviewed the contract. A discussion ensued to remove the word “overage” on page 3 from the contract.

Vice Chairman Storey made a motion to approve authorizing the Authority Chairman and the Board Secretary to execute the Georgia Department of Transportation contract and resolution for the Highway 129 road widening project with the word “overage” removed from the contract.

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

#### *Intergovernmental Wastewater Agreement between JCWSA and the City of Jefferson*

Manager Klerk stated this contract has been thoroughly reviewed and is ready for execution. He said Jefferson is comfortable with it as well.

Manager Klerk reviewed this contract stating the agreement essentially says that if needed, the City of Jefferson and the Authority have the right to send each other 100,000 gallons of water per day. He said it's based off of a 50 year agreement that was executed between both parties about 15 years prior. Manager Klerk said the City of Jefferson has run into capacity problems. He said their lift station is across the street from our waste water treatment plant. Manager Klerk said Jefferson wants to send some of their load from their lift station to our plant for us to treat.

Manager Klerk stated we will be constructing a pump station (Valentine Lift Station) that would allow us to utilize the City of Jefferson's I-85 waste water plant as well.

Vice Chairman Storey made a motion to allow the Authority Chairman to execute and the Board Secretary attest the Intergovernmental Wastewater Agreement between JCWSA and the City of Jefferson.

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

#### *Execution of Jackson County Drought Management Plan*

Manager Klerk said this has been in the works for a long time and involves four counties. He said once each county has finished their plan, the Upper Oconee Basin Water Authority can put it before the state for approval.

Manager Klerk said we did not want to be tied to tightly to what the EPD has. He said it can take weeks for the EPD to act. Manager Klerk said that Upper Oconee wants the ability to act quickly and act independently from EPD.

Manager Klerk said this plan looks primarily at stream flow. It encompasses tons of data and becomes a much more predictive model.

Engineer Leslie said the model was developed by Jacobs Engineering. He said ultimately the model predicts how many days are left in the reservoir.

Manager Klerk said this plan is similar to the old plan with two major improvements; an anticipated drought protection period (a drought time line) and the ability to establish a reasonable baseline for drought reduction goals based on Jackson County's prior year's usage. Prior year's usage allows for any documented increases in sales.

This item was tabled to the next board meeting to allow members to review the plan.

## **Executive Session**

Member Bell made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:10 p.m.

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

Member Bell made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.

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

No action taken.

## **Manager's Report**

- Jackson County Town Hall SPLOST Meetings
- Possible SPLOST dollars for the Authority
- Bear Creek VFD project status
- Update on Sludge press project (Phase3) at MOWWTP

Chairman Ehrhardt encouraged everyone to get the word out to the public about SPLOST. He asked if we would be going out for bond money and in what order would the projects be executed.

Manager Klerk said we would go out for a bond immediately based on future SPLOST revenues. He said one of the things the commissioners want is for us to be able to finish all the projects in six years. Manager Klerk said the Authority prioritized the projects and the BOC gave their blessing on our priorities.

Finance Director Smith said we are looking at bonding five to seven million dollars.

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Karen Johnson,  
Board Secretary