

Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority
Called Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2016

Chairman Ehrhardt called the April 21, 2016 Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority Called Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present included Chairman Dave Ehrhardt, Board Member Pat Bell, Board Member Dylan Wilbanks and Board Member Ronnie Norris.

Also present: Attorney Paul Smart, Manager Eric Klerk, Finance Director Judy Smith, CIO/GIS Analyst Mike Johnson, Water/Wastewater Manager Mark Dudziak and Board Secretary Karen Johnson. Visitors included Kenneth Bridges, Bobby Sells, Nelsnick Enterprises and Angie Gary, Main Street Newspapers.

Approval of Minutes

Member Bell made a motion to approve the March 10, 2016 board meeting minutes.

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

Finance Director Smith reviewed the financials. She said we had a net gain of eighty customers in February.

Visitors

Mr. Kenneth Bridges approached the Board, again, to request the Authority run a water line down his road – Richard Bridges Road. He stated he would not be hooking up to our water but wanted the water line for fire protection and mentioned the SPLOST money. He also mentioned the Authority and the City of Nicholson getting together to meet regarding his situation.

Chairman Ehrhardt stated the engineering estimated cost for running that water line would be \$123,248.00.

New Business

Rate Analysis Proposal

Manager Klerk stated we have not had a rate analysis in several years. He explained to the Board the increasing costs to fund future capital replacements at the Bear Creek WTP and Reservoir. Manager Klerk said those costs will steadily increase over the next twelve years.

Manager Klerk said we have received a water and sewer rate study proposal from Nelsnick Enterprises. He said this would be a very comprehensive study.

Bobby Sells (Nelsnick) presented the rate analysis proposal to the Board. He said this could be completed in three to four months.

Finance Director Smith stated having a more comprehensive rate model going forward would benefit the Authority.

Manager Klerk said staff recommendation is to contract with Nelsnick for the rate study.

Member Norris made a motion to move forward with the Water and Sewer Rate Analysis contract with Nelsnick Enterprises.

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

SPLOST 6 Connection Fee Options Adoption

Manager Klerk stated as a result of the availability of SPLOST funding, the Authority is able to offer significantly reduced water connection fees for new subscribers. He said historically we have cut the connection fee in half. He said staff would like to offer three payment choices available to new SPLOST customers:

1. Payment of \$1000.00 with the execution of a “Water Services Agreement”.
2. Payment of \$500.00 with the execution of a “Water Services Agreement” and a commitment to keep of service active for a minimum of two (2) years.
3. Distressed Circumstances option – income and/or age requirements apply.
Please call our office for full details.

Manager Klerk said we need to get the letter with the options sent out as soon as possible. He said the discount will only be available for those property owners served as part of a SPLOST 6 Project and who apply for Authority water service before or during actual construction of the water line at the potential customer’s property location.

Member Wilbanks made a motion to adopt the three payment options offered in the SPLOST 6 Letter.

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

Resolution to Proceed with Bonding SPLOST 6

Attorney Smart explained that there will be a resolution at the May meeting authorizing the Authority to move forward with bonding for the SPLOST 6 projects. He stated at this time, approval is needed to move forward with soliciting bids for the bond products.

Member Wilbanks made a motion to proceed with authorizing bond council to solicit bids for bonds for the SPLOST 6 projects.

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

Execution of the Braselton Water Agreement

Manager Klerk stated we have had a wholesale water agreement in place with the City of Braselton since 2013. He said it is up for renewal now. He said the renewal agreement is identical to the previous one except the rate is lowered by fifteen (.15) cents per 1000 gallons (\$2.50 reduced to \$2.35).

Manager Klerk said the City of Braselton has approved the agreement and he would like for our board to approve the agreement.

Member Norris made a motion to execute the three year water purchase agreement with the City of Braselton.

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

Manager's Report

- Manager Klerk stated that the 2015 Water Quality Report has been distributed to all customers.

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Karen Johnson,
Board Secretary