**Hart County Water & Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors Meeting May 18, 2015**

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met May 18, 205, in the Hart County Cooperative Extension Service Building. Chairman Hugh Holland called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with Vice Chairman Wade Carlton, Members Mike MacNabb, Jerry Cannady, Larry Haley, Director Pat Goran, Legal Counsel Walter Gordon, and Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Breffle present. Also present were Jerry Hood and Russ Brink of EMI, Mark Hynds of The Hartwell Sun and Hart County resident Gordon Stutts.

Approval of agenda

Mr. Cannady asked to add “Change to January minutes” and “Executive Session-Personnel” (if needed) to the agenda. Mr. Holland agreed to add “Change to January minutes” as the last item under Old Business. Mr. MacNabb made a motion to approve the amended agenda and Mr. Haley seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of April 20th regular meeting minutes, April 29th called meeting minutes

Mr. Cannady made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Haley seconded it. The motion passed 4-0 with Mr. Carlton abstaining.

Financial report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report. Mr. Cannady made a motion to set aside $150 from each new tap fee paid for retrofitting existing meters with radio read transmitters. Mr. MacNabb seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Old business

Airline area water tank / connector project

Mr. Goran explained that the pressure will increase on part of Lavonia Hwy to over 180 PSI once the booster pump stations are installed. EMI’s recommendation when the project was designed was to install a separate service line with a 1” or 1 ½” pressure reducing valve to service these customers and protect them from the increased pressure caused by HCWSA’s system change. Mr. Goran suggested not doing this since the customer’s application requires the customer to install a pressure reducing valve on their service lines and only sending a letter to the affected customers informing them of the change. Mr. Carlton made a motion to send letters to the customers informing them about the increased water pressure. Mr. MacNabb seconded it. The motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Holland opposed.

Bethany Church area project

Mr. Goran proposed increasing the scope of this project to include an additional 5200’ of 6” waterline at a cost of $65,000 instead of the bid, and previous Board approved alternate of 8” waterline at a cost of $42,000. There is a potential of 4 more customers with the additional waterline. Mr. Brink stated that the loop with the additional 6” waterline would increase the fire flows around Joe Johnson Rd but not help in the Deer Run Rd area like the 8” upsize would. After some discussion, EMI said they would charge an additional $3000 for the increase in the project scope.

Mr. Cannady objected to Mr. Goran’s proceeding with analysis of this project when the Board had agreed on the 8” waterline upsizing and he had agreed to it. Mr. Cannady handed out information regarding Mr. Goran not following the Board’s previous meeting’s vote, the Board’s desire not to continue with analysis of the alternates, and Mr. Goran’s agreement to the Board’s vote to not proceed with additional waterlines. He further questioned why Mr. Goran had EMI not present contract documents per the Board’s previous vote including the alternate and only presented documents with his preferences. Mr. Holland commented that Mr. Goran’s current presentation was based from the bids received after the April meeting and that the cost for the 6” waterline was half the original cost estimate. Furthermore, Mr. Holland felt the Board made the decision in the April meeting too hastily.

After additional discussion, Mr. Carlton made a motion to increase this project with the additional 5200’ at a total cost of $68,000 including engineering costs. Mr. MacNabb seconded it. The motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Cannady opposed.

Rock Springs area project

Mr. Hood updated the Board that EMI hoped to have all plans submitted to EPD for their approval by May 31, 2015 and that bidding will begin in June. He also informed the Board of Mr. Goran’s idea to bid this project in two phases. The first phase will be Walter’s Rd, Rock Springs Rd, and Lakeview Rd. Then the second phase will include the secondary or side roads. Mr. Holland expressed his concerns with delaying getting water to the residents who are currently hauling water to their homes. Mr. Cannady made a motion to send commitment letters to all the side roads on this project requiring a commitment of tap fee and monthly billing. Mr. Haley seconded it. The motion passed 5-0. After some discussion regarding the specifics of the commitment letter, the Board asked to discuss this in a policy work session. The Board additionally asked for all suggestions regarding changes/additions to the policies to be submitted to them in writing. Mr. Cannady withdrew his previous motion.

Proposed additional staff member and discussion of job descriptions

The Board discussed whether the position should be part time or full time. The Board agreed that the position would be primarily office work but that person would be trained on all job duties of Mrs. Breffle including reading meters. Mr. MacNabb made a motion to advertise and hire a part time employee for HCWSA. Mr. Carlton seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Request for water service – Cromer Road chicken farmer

Mr. Goran presented this project of 1400’-2600’ of waterline to serve a new chicken farmer and two residential customers. He also presented pictures of the right of way on Cromer Rd. Mr. Goran stated that he had spoken with various contractors and no one except Arrowood General Contracting, Inc was interested in working on the project and thus did not think the project should be bid. He estimated the cost to be $46,000. Mr. Holland asked for a contract from Arrowood committing to Mr. Goran’s estimated cost. The Board expressed its concerns regarding any damage the construction might cause and asked for Mr. Goran to meet with Jon Caime, Hart County Administrator regarding the possible damage to their road. The Board agreed Mr. Goran needed to get a firm signed commitment from Arrowood regarding this project before proceeding.

Hanley Road / Reese Lane / Park Lane – Immediate Threat and Danger Grant

The Board was informed that HCWSA was not awarded an Immediate Threat and Danger Grant and thus will not proceed with extending waterlines on Hanley Rd, Reese Ln, and Park Ln.

Change to January Minutes

Mr. Cannady made a motion to change the January minutes in item “Hanley Rd/Reese Ln/ Park Ln-Immediate Threat and Danger Grant (ITDG) to “Mr. Holland made a motion to proceed with the necessary engineering for the application but to use EMI for future engineering work and Mr. MacNabb seconded it”. Mr. MacNabb seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

New business

Review and discussion of Authority rates and policies

The Board agreed to have a work session on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 6 pm to discuss customer rates and policies, employee policies, and HCWSA policy and procedures.

Public comments

Mr. Stutts commented regarding getting water to the Rock Springs area and the specifics of the commitment letters. He further asked the Board to consider having different commitment letters for vacant lots. Mr. Holland explained that this issue would be decided in the work session on June 2nd.

Mr. Brink asked the Board to make a motion to award the contract for the Bethany Area project to Arrowood General Contracting, Inc. for the base bid and the resolution presented by Mr. Goran. Mr. MacNabb made said motion and Mr. Carlton seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Director’s comments

Mr. Goran mentioned that a potential customer asked HCWSA to extend its waterline on Hodges Mill Rd. He explained that he had spoken with Arrowood General Contracting, Inc. regarding extending the existing 2” waterline 350’ for a cost of approximately $2000-$2500. Mr. Goran recommended extending the waterline 350’. The Board requested Mr. Goran to get prices from other local contractors. The Board agreed to add this to the June Meeting Agenda.

Mr. Goran asked Mr. Cannady to update the Board regarding the sewage treatment agreement with the City of Hartwell. Mr. Cannady stated that he had spoken with Mr. Aldrich regarding this and was waiting on a written response regarding Mr. Aldrich’s concerns with the agreement.

Members’ comments

Mr. Cannady commented regarding getting water on Blackmon Rd. and he also thanked the Board for supporting him going to the GRWA conference.

Mr. Haley asked Mr. Goran how often he was testing and flushing the waterlines. Mr. Goran stated he was testing the water monthly as required by EPD, and he stated he needed to do more flushing and have Arrowood install flushing devices at the end of some of the waterlines.

Adjournment

Mr. MacNabb made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Carlton seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

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Hugh Holland, Chairman Kathy Breffle, Secretary/Treasurer

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