**Hart County Water & Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors Meeting October 20, 2014**

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met October 20, 2014, 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, Member Mike MacNabb, Member Jerry Cannady, Member Larry Haley, Director Pat Goran, Legal Counsel Walter Gordon, and Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Breffle present. Also present were Lake Morris of The Hartwell Sun, Russ Brink and Jerry Hood of EMI, Hart County Fire Chief Jerry Byrum, and Hart County residents Jim and Carolyn Martin, Robert and Kathleen Maynard, and Ricky Carter.

Approval of agenda

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

Introduction of, and remarks by, invited guests

Mr. Martin spoke asking again for water service in the Rock Springs/Panorama Drive area. He expressed his desire for better fire protection for the homes in the area.

Approval of September 15th regular meeting minutes

Mr. Carlton made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. MacNabb seconded it. The motion passed 4-0 with Mr. Cannady abstaining as he was not present in room during the vote.

Financial report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report.

Old business

Nancy Hart School Road Area 2013 CDBG project

Mr. Goran reported that the only items remaining for this project was obtaining the easements for the private roads, installing the waterlines on the private roads, and installing the taps and service lines to those customers. This item will be removed from future agendas.

Airline area water tank / connector project

Mr. Goran reported that he had signed the licensing agreement with the Hartwell Railroad Company for the waterline crossing at a cost of $240 per year with the option to increase by 10% every five years.

Mr. Goran reported that he had negotiated to purchase the necessary land on Bowersville Highway for $6000.00 plus attorney fees and surveying costs.

Mr. Goran recommended that a committee of at most three review the booster pump bids to determine who to award the contract to. He stated that the committee currently consisted of Russ Brink and him. Mr. Holland suggested Mr. Carlton also participate in this decision. The review would be based on a matrix of requirements designed by EMI. Mr. Cannady made a motion to authorize the three member committee proceed with a final bid award. Mr. Holland seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Brink updated the Board that while the fabrication of the booster pump stations occurred there would be separate bids from contractors for the site work.

Mr. Cannady updated the Board that he had received contact information from Hartwell’s City Manager regarding renting space on the tank for antennas and that he would be pursuing this before the next meeting.

2014 GEFA project

Mr. Goran and Mr. Hood presented possible areas for these funds to be spent. After some discussion, Mr. Carlton presented a revised target area in the Bethany-Bowersville area. Mr. Hood said he would re-figure the cost estimates for the Board’s review. Also, the Board discussed the possibility of extending waterlines into the Rock Springs/Lakeview area. Mr. Holland requested interest letters be sent to the approximately 225 homes in the area to see about the interest in the area. Mr. Martin agreed to assist with getting the information from his neighbors also. The Board agreed to review these areas and the associated costs at the next meeting to make a decision about proceeding.

2015 Community Development Block Grant application

Mr. Goran asked the Board to authorize him to sign the necessary grant writing contract, preliminary engineering contract, and detailed engineering contract for this project. Mr. Cannady made a motion to authorize Mr. Goran to sign the contract with Allen-Smith Consulting for grant writing. Mr. MacNabb seconded it. The motion passed 5-0. Mr. MacNabb made a motion to authorize Mr. Goran to sign the preliminary engineering contract with EMI. The motion passed 5-0. Mr. Cannady made a motion to authorize Mr. Goran to sign the contract with EMI to proceed with the necessary detailed engineering and permitting on this project. The motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Haley opposed.

Consideration of radio-read meters on new line installations

Mr. Cannady updated the Board that he was gathering information about different possible radio read meters and asked for this item to be moved to next month’s agenda.

Discussion of sewer master plan

Mr. Goran, Mr. Holland, and Mr. Cannady met on Thursday, October 16th to discuss a sewer master plan. The first item they would like to work on is getting sewer agreements from both the City of Hartwell and City of Royston similar to the agreement HCWSA currently has with the City of Lavonia.

Discussion of options for out-of-service Royston Highway elevated water tank

Mr. Hood estimated it would cost $25,000-$40,000 to remove the tank. The Board took no action.

New business

Employee retirement plan(s)

After some discussion regarding Hart County’s policy on retirement, Mr. MacNabb made a motion allowing HCWSA’s employees to participate in a retirement plan with a maximum match by HCWSA of 3% of the employee’s compensation beginning on November 1, 2014. Mr. Goran asked that the Board about the previous six years that Mrs. Breffle has been eligible under HCWSA’s policies but did not have a retirement plan but the Board declined to take further action at this time. Mr. Cannady seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Public comments

None

Director’s comments

Mr. Goran asked the Board to consider restricting the monies on hand from customer account deposits or using these funds for operations. Mr. Gordon agreed to research this topic and report at the next meeting regarding using these funds for operating activities or if they have to be held separately.

Mr. Goran said that Joe Jones, a chicken farmer on the end of Jones Road, requested he approach the Board about waiving the monthly base fee and/or reducing his minimum annual water purchase requirement. The Board agreed that the signed agreement would not be altered.

Members’ comments

Mr. Cannady mentioned the fire flow issues in the Ridge Road area that is served by the City of Hartwell. He also thanked the Board for allowing him to attend the water operator’s training class in Gainesville and thought all Board members would benefit from the course. He also offered to try and obtain some of the training materials from the class.

Mr. Haley asked Mr. Goran to contact Arrowood General Contracting, Inc. regarding the work on Bowersville Highway and complaints he has received regarding water run-off.

Mr. Holland commented about not having much success acquiring used equipment but would continue to pursue this possibility.

Upcoming meetings **–** November 17th, December 15th

Mr. Carlton informed the Board that he would not be able to attend the November 17th meeting. The Board agreed to move the meeting to November 10th.

Adjournment

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

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Hugh Holland, Chairman Kathy Breffle, Secretary/Treasurer

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