**Hart County Water & Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors Meeting December 15, 2014**

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met December 15, 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, members Mike MacNabb, Jerry Cannady, Larry Haley, Director Pat Goran, and Legal Counsel Kim Higginbotham present. Also present were Mark Hynds of The Hartwell Sun, Jerry Hood of EMI, Hart County Commissioner Joey Dorsey, Hart County Commissioner-Elect Ricky Carter, and Hart County residents Gordon Stutts, Greg Stutts, Robert Maynard, and Jim Martin.

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. Stutts spoke about the need for water in the Rock Springs area of Hart County.

Approval of November 10th regular meeting minutes

Mrs. Higginbotham asked to change the minutes to say “two accounts” instead of “one account” under Director’s comments. Mr. Cannady made a motion to approve the minutes with the change and Mr. Haley seconded it. The motion passed 4-0 with Mr. Carlton abstaining.

Financial report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report.

Old business

Request for water service – Roper Road chicken farmer

Mr. Goran presented a signed commitment letter from the potential property owner and chicken farmer on Roper Road. Mr. Goran explained that HCWSA would need to extend the waterline on Roper Road approximately 2000’ at a cost of no more than $40,000. Mr. Goran requested the Board approve this project contingent on the purchase of the property and construction of the chicken houses. Mr. Cannady made said motion and Mr. Carlton seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Request for water service – Weaver Trail

Mr. Goran presented the low bid of $30,890 from Dodd Construction Co., Inc. He further stated that after speaking with the contractor and reducing the amount of waterlines installed for this project, it could be completed for no more than $20,000 excluding the cost of the taps. Mr. Cannady made a motion to proceed with this project based on a construction cost of $20,000 and payments for water taps from the four customers before construction would begin, and Mr. MacNabb seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Airline area water tank / connector project

Mr. Goran updated the Board that he was still waiting on SyncroFlo’s final design of the booster pumps to be approved by Russ Brink of EMI before SyncroFlo can proceed with building the booster pumps.

Mrs. Higginbotham mentioned the billboard easement issue with the purchase of the property on Bowersville Highway for the booster pump station but said HCWSA could always proceed with purchase with condemning that part of easement requirement if necessary but did not think it would be an issue.

Mr. Goran informed the Board that there was water in the waterline as construction from Cedar Farms is complete.

Mr. Cannady questioned Hart County EMS not being able to install their antennas until Phoenix Fabricators releases the tank ownership to HCWSA. Mr. Goran agreed to meet with Mr. Terrell Partain with Hart County EMS about this.

Mr. Holland asked Mr. Goran to present a price quote for another booster pump station at the next meeting. Mr. Holland expressed his desire for HCWSA to be able to pump water from any of its current three suppliers.

2014 GEFA project loan / consideration of applying for a United States Department of Agriculture loan / grant

The Board discussed the different possible projects and the different possible funding sources including GEFA and USDA. The Board requested a proposal from EMI regarding cost vs. number of potential customers from Lavonia Highway to Will Bailey Road to Mt. Olivet Road to Rock Springs.

Also Mr. Hood said he would do a rate study to see about the possibility of a rate increase for the USDA loan/grant.

New business

Request from Hart County Board of Education

This item was tabled to the next meeting.

Request for water service – Hanley Road / Reese Lane / Park Lane

Mr. Goran explained that this project would cost approximately $100,000 to install waterlines on all three roads. He further stated that he had spoken with Georgia Mountains Regional Commission about applying for an Immediate Threat and Danger Grant which could cover up to 50% of the cost with a maximum of $50,000 grant. Georgia Mountains Regional Commission will charge $1000 for the grant application, environmental review submission, and all other paperwork submission regarding historic preservation, Native American tribal grounds, etc. The Board agreed to proceed with application for either this area or for the west side of the Rocky Ford area especially Y. W. Vickery Road where there are abandoned properties because of the lack of water.

Discussion about Authority buying its own construction / maintenance / tapping equipment

Mr. Cannady agreed to present some costs for construction equipment at the next meeting. Mr. Holland asked Mr. Goran to present cost for insurance, worker’s comp, and salaries and benefits for the additional employees. Also Mr. Holland asked Mr. Goran to present the amount HCWSA spent in 2014 on waterline construction.

Public comments

Mr. Stutts expressed his appreciation of the Board’s efforts to get water to his area.

Director’s comments

Mr. Goran informed the Board that the Hart County Board of Commissioners approved a 2.5% salary increase to all its employees and asked the Board to raise HCWSA’s employee by the same amount. Mr. MacNabb made a motion to approve the raise of 2.5% effective for FY15 and Mr. Holland seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Goran also thanked Mr. Cannady for all his work getting the income surveys for the 2015 CDBG application.

Members’ comments

Mr. Cannady updated the Board regarding renting space on the water tanks for antennas. He also presented a letter for HCWSA to send to the Hart County Industrial Building Authority regarding a sewer master plan. He also stated that he thought the City of Hartwell was establishing a committee to meet with HCWSA regarding a sewer agreement. Mr. Cannady stated that he would have information regarding radio read meters for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Holland stated that he did not want to meet with members of the Hartwell City Council and suggested HCWSA representatives meet with Hartwell City Manager David Aldrich and Hartwell Mayor Brandon Johnson initially instead. Mr. Holland made a motion to have Mr. MacNabb take his place should such meetings include City Council members and Mr. Carlton seconded it. The motion passed 4-0 with Mr. MacNabb abstaining.

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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