**Hart County Water & Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors Meeting January 12, 2015**

The Hart County Water and Sewer Authority met January 12, 2015, 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, Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Breffle, Director Pat Goran, and Legal Counsel Walter Gordon present. Also present were Mark Hynds of The Hartwell Sun, Jerry Hood, Russ Brink, and Kim Kyst of EMI, and Hart County residents Gordon Stutts, Mercer Crook, Greg Stutts, Russell Ward, 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 explained the dire need for waterlines in the Rock Springs area. Mr. Crook explained that his home currently has no running water as his well is dry and he has already invested over $8000 in wells for his property.

Approval of December 15th regular meeting minutes

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

Financial report

Mr. Goran presented the financial report.

Old business

Airline area water tank / connector project

Mr. Brink confirmed the pumps should be delivered in May 2015. Mr. Goran informed the Board that the tank and waterlines are complete.

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

Per GEFA, the loan documents should arrive by Friday, January 16, 2015 and need to be signed and returned to GEFA in February 2015. After discussion regarding the potential project scopes, Mr. Cannady made a motion to proceed with the engineering for the Rock Springs area based on EMI’s proposal “North Rock Springs Rd Area-Pared Down Budget-Interest Letters”, proceed with construction not to exceed the limits of the GEFA loan, and the final decision on which roads will have water lines installed on is contingent on receiving commitment letters. Mr. MacNabb seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Hanley Road / Reese Lane / Park Lane - Immediate Threat and Danger Grant (ITDG)

Mr. Goran informed the Board that Hart County will apply for this grant on HCWSA’s behalf and that the necessary resolution was on the BOC’s next Board meeting agenda. Mr. Goran explained that it would cost approximately $1000-$2000 for the engineering needed for the grant application using a different engineering consultant. Mr. Holland made a motion to proceed with the necessary engineering for the application and Mr. MacNabb seconded it. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion about Authority buying its own construction equipment and installing pipe with Authority employees

Mr. Cannady presented a spreadsheet showing the estimated cost of equipment, labor, maintenance, and waterlines if HCWSA was to hire its own installation crew. Per these estimates HCWSA would need an additional $65,000 per month thus the Board agreed to not pursue this at this time.

New business

Discussion of installation of cellular antennas on Gateway, Airline tanks

Mr. Cannady explained that he had submitted all necessary information to possible users and is waiting for responses.

Radio-read meters

Mr. Goran explained to the Board and showed them the Sensus iPERL meters currently being purchased and the transmitter needed to convert them to radio read. The additional cost is approximately $150.00 per meter. Mr. Cannady made a motion to install radio read transmitters on all new meter installations and to use the current monies set aside for radio read to begin converting existing meters to radio read based on the Authority staff's decisions. The motion was contingent on Mr. Goran's satisfaction of using iPERL meters. Mr. MacNabb seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Public comments

Mr. Stutts asked the Board about a time frame for construction in the Rock Springs area and commitment letters. Mr. Martin thanked the Board for its effort in reviewing the possibility of extending waterlines into the Rock Springs area. Mr. Hood commented that HCWSA typically does not do the detailed engineering and permitting for a project and then not proceed with installing the waterlines.

Director’s comments

Mr. Goran informed the Board that Mr. Holland, Mr. Cannady and he had met with representatives of the Hart County Industrial Building Authority regarding a sewer agreement. He also stated that they had met with representatives of the City of Hartwell also regarding a sewer agreement. Mr. Goran updated the Board that Allen Smith Consulting is continuing to work on the 2015 CDBG application and plan on having a public hearing about it on February 5, 2015 at noon at HCWSA’s office. Mr. Goran also informed the Board that the City of Lavonia was applying again for grant funding for the “northern sewer trunk line”, that a commitment of approximately $200,000 in local matching funds will be required, and that a decision needs to be made about who will pay the local match. He further reminded the Board that they had previously taken the position that HCWSA should not pay for sewer improvements with SPLOST 4 funds.

Members’ comments

Mr. Cannady informed the Board that he would be speaking at the Hart County Property Owners Association’s monthly meeting on Monday, January 19th at the Hart County Library.

Mr. Haley asked about the status of past due payments from customers. Mr. Goran stated that he had turned off customers that were not current and that the majority of the ones on the repayment plan were making monthly payments. Mr. Holland asked again for a monthly report on the status of the overdue customers.

Adjournment

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

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Hugh Holland, Chairman Kathy Breffle, Secretary/Treasurer

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