

MEEETING MINUTES
CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY
JUNE 13, 2022
CARROLL COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
BOARD MEETING ROOM
HILLSVILLE, VA

CALL TO ORDER

The Carroll County Public Service Authority held their regular meeting on Monday, June 13, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Carroll County Governmental Center Board Meeting Room. Members present included: Joey Dickson, Vice Chairman, Tracy Moore, Chairman, Garry Jessup, Ronnie Collins, Rex Hill, Robbie McCraw, Michael Watson, Executive Director and Dana Phillips, Secretary/Treasurer.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing opened at 4:01 and closed at 4:02 for the budget for 2022-2023. No one was present to speak.

CITIZENS TIME

Mrs. Hutchens spoke last meeting but came into to show samples of her water at home and filters she's had to replace.

(ORDER)

CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mr. McCraw, seconded by Mr. Dickson and duly carried by the Authority does hereby approve the consent agenda, sections A, B & C. The May 9, 2022 minutes were also approved and are on file in the PSA office. The claims were as follows:

Claims

Claims for May 23, 2022 Check # 25303 - # 25326 \$74,854.56

Claims for June 2, 2022 Check # 25327 - #25336 \$52,551.97

Claims June 9, 2022 Check # 25337 - #25360 \$127,881.68

Transfer for Claims

Transfer for May 23, 2022 claims in the amount of \$74,854.56

Transfer for June 2, 2022 claims in the amount of \$52,551.97

Transfer for June 9, 2022 claims in the amount of \$127,881.68

Transfer to Debt Reserve

Transfer to Debt Reserve \$6,776.50

Transfer to Debt Reserve \$ 10,000.00

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NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Watson – In your packets you should've received a copy of the past budget and the only difference in the new budget is there is an increase that was voted on last year that was based on a 3-year period, so we'll have an increase again this year. This year the increase on water is 3% and sewer is 10%.

Mr. Moore – Mr. Jessup and Mr. Collins you both worked on that budget, didn't you?

Mr. Jessup – Yes sir.

Mr. Moore – I do have one question. With the increase last year, did it pretty much even itself out due to wage increase and stuff? Did we gain any on it?

Mr. Watson – I think what we're going to run into is this year will get us to where water will start to balance out. We're still behind in sewer. It'll probably take us about a year for us to get to the point to where we'll be able to just about break even on the sewer. So, the water last year was losing money, this year we're coming close to breaking even. So next year the 3% will add on to our cost increase.

Mr. Moore – With the adding of the new meters and stuff will that help us?

Mr. Watson- Oh absolutely.

Mr. Moore – What I'd like to see is to hopefully balance it out to where next year there's not an increase and maybe a decrease.

Mr. Dickson – The sewer rate is so high when you're using a little amount of water that your given and it goes into the sewer rate that's tough on businesses and not just businesses but people too.

Mr. Watson- So we're looking at, according to this it looks like we're still trending by 120,000 in the hold on sewer through May. Then counting the grant money, and the other money we've received it looks like our debt payments didn't come out so we're about 400,000 to the good.

Mrs. Phillips – In your packet you had a yearly budget summary for department for water and sewer. We are still running behind on sewer through May by 119, 930 on expenses vs. revenue. Of course, the new connections are going to help on that a lot. The water right now,

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we're showing we're trending ahead by 412, 961 but we have VRA payments that come out twice a year so they've still got to come out in June which will bring that down quite a bit.

Mr. Moore – How much are they going to be?

Mrs. Phillips – We got two of them that's 22,000 together and then we've got one more that's 85,000 that comes out for the Airport Road. And then of course we've got all our debt payments that have to come out for RD on that too. We won't end up that well but as far as remaining budget on the revenue side for water right now we need to in our next billing we need to 30,122 more to make our budget that we have budgeted this year. In a normal month like last month 212,559 was what the revenue was for water receipts. So, it did help, we should come out about 100 and some ahead on the water.

Mr. Watson- And were about 120 short on sewer.

Mr. Moore – Did we gain any on it with the lack of payroll and employees?

Mrs. Phillips – Yes, we did but we've taken what we had on lack of employees and that went to contract work. We went over budget on that as well because we didn't really have it budgeted. Whatever we had leftover in salaries will go to contract work.

Mr. Watson- Somewhere in between the meters, emergency work, those type of things we're close to \$100,000.00 in contract labor.

Mr. Dickson – How many increases have we had?

Mr. Moore – Last year was the first.

Mr. Jessup – You say when sewer might break even?

Mr. Watson – We need to increase customers in order for it to break even and not be subsidized by water.

Mr. Moore – What is the number of customers? 100?

Mrs. Phillips – We have right at 1,000 sewer customers.

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Mr. Moore – My next question is where the BOS done some of the services through the EDA part of that budget as well?

Mr. Watson – The grants we have gotten a total of 84 applications which will increase our annual budget a little over \$30,000 a year. If we can get the sewer plant and Exit 1 and we can pay for that to go away, then you might have a possibility of dropping some of your sewer rates. I hate to say that but that may be a way that you could lower that a little bit. If you continue passing on the cost at what we’re paying now, and it’s depending on if we do a debt service. We have applied for that grant and if that goes through it will be an enormous savings.

Mr. Collins- You said you had 84 applications for the grant. How many applications can you take?

Mr. Watson – Tonight I’m asking for another \$100,000.00. That’s \$252,000.00 worth of grant applications.

Mr. Collins – Anybody in the county can apply for those, correct?

Mr. Watson – Yes if they have existing water there. Now we have worked out a few things where the person is short on water, we do the connection fee and then they pay for the extension.

(ORDER)

Approval to adopt the Budget for 2022/2023

Upon a motion by Mr. Jessup, seconded by Mr. McCraw the Authority does adopt the PSA Budget for 2022-2023.

The vote was as follows:

Mr. Collins – Yes

Mr. Hill – Yes

Mr. Dickson- No

Mr. McCraw- Yes

Mr. Jessup -Yes

Mr. Moore – Yes

PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Watson- Exit 1/Cana water system interconnection we have applied for the grant. We don’t know when, it hasn’t been announced yet. That’s connecting the two tanks together.

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Exit 1/ Regional Wastewater project, they're still working. I don't think they've started taking applications. From my understanding there still is a desire to move that to Mount Airy so we're waiting on the application to be accepted. Once they are being accepted, we will apply for that.

The engineers are still looking at Exit 1 trying to figure out why we can't be in compliance, which we're out of our consent order now.

The search grant, we still haven't received a report on that. As soon as we do, well email that out to everyone.

SCADA, hopefully before the next meeting we'll be able to advertise and send that out for bids. Just to give you an update, SCADA is out for the regional side. There're questions to whether or not, due to the updates that hadn't been done in the past, I'd say about \$30,000.00 worth of updates that needed to be done some time back, we're not getting the alerts. You can go and look on the computer itself and see what's going on, but you're not receiving updates at night. That is an issue, and we keep pushing forward on it.

Hillsville Sewer- They're supposed to test the line and check the pressure in it this Wednesday. Also, I've got our attorney working on the agreement.

Water & Sewer grants we've got 84. We are starting to put them in in house. We've got a couple people, that are able to work together so we'll start to install a few of them so that's going to save us some money.

Blueberry we're still working on with the contractor, they haven't started yet. I'll try to get an update on that. I'm not sure when they plan on beginning.

Regional Water at the next meeting I'll bring you a resolution for this board and the BOS need to support and approve in order for us to commit to 200,000 gallons of additional capacity through Regional Water. We are applying for grants through it and we'd only be responsible for the \$200,000 in order to upgrade it.

Mr. Moore – How much longer do you think it's going to be on setters?

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Mr. Watson – We’ve got boxes sitting down there that we’ve pulled 14 out of the ground that are made for a pressure reducer, but I don’t know how long it’s going to take. I think we used our last ones we got from Hillsville last week. We might be able to borrow some more. We’ll have to go ask them.

Mr. Moore – How does that effect the grants? As far as our funding from the board to put meters in. Does it effect it any, or is there a timetable?

Mr. Watson - Once they’re put in, we’ll send a bill to the EDA and they’ll receive the money from the county. Until we put them in, there’s no additional cost for it. Of course, we would lose revenue because they’re not in so we’re not receiving the monthly fee. But we try to put them in on need like if someone calls and says they’re out of water then we try to jump ahead and do those no matter what. So that’s why we had some where we kind of jumped the gun and not waiting for approval before we put them in. If they’re out, we set the meter and then submitted the grant application afterwards.

Mr. Moore – I have another question. We have all these people that are paying the availability fee. What if we take those out and use them somewhere where people can use the water?

Mr. Phillips – We have actually started looking at that. If they aren’t paying the fee, then we’ve taken out a warrant and debt on them.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS TIME

Mr. Jessup – On the Blueberry deal, who are we waiting on, which contractor?

Mr. Watson – Bowman & Griffin

Mr. Moore – But there’s no setters.

Mr. McCraw – Just thank you to the staff for everything you’re doing. Any update on that hydrant on Tower Road?

Mrs. Phillips – We’ve ordered the parts.

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Mr. Moore – I’ve been getting a lot of complaints about the bill that’s coming. It’s got all the information on it. Did we change the billing?

Mrs. Phillips – No, we can’t get our bills either. We ordered them in December, we got notification a month ago and that’s what they sent. Now, post cards is what we used in the pass prior to the press & seal.

Mr. McCraw – The town does the postcards like that don’t they?

Mrs. Phillips – Yeah, the town always has.

(ORDER)

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Mr. McCraw, Seconded by Mr. Hill and duly carried by the authority does hereby adjourn at 4:58 p.m. until the next scheduled meeting on Monday, July 11, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.

Tracy Moore – Chairman

Mike Watson – Executive Director

Dana Phillips – Sec/Treasurer