

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Wise County Public Service Authority held its regular monthly Board Meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via electronic meeting. Chairman, Ralph Gilley, called the regular monthly meeting to order and the Director, Cody McElroy, called roll.

Members Present:

Ralph Gilley, Chairman
Fred Luntsford, Vice-Chairman
JH Rivers
Ruthie Rainey
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins

Absent:

Also Present:

Cody McElroy, Executive Director
Elaine Minor, Recording Secretary
Will Sturgill, Wise County PSA Attorney
John Broskey, Lane Group

PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, and seconded by Ruthie Rainey, to approve the agenda as presented. The vote was as follows.

Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
------	------	---------	--------

Ralph Gilley, Chairman			
Fred Luntsford, Vice-Chairman			
JH Rivers			
Ruthie Rainey			
Hibert Tackett, Jr.			
Bob Adkins			
Worley Smith			
Robby Robbins			

The motion was passed.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, and seconded by Worley Smith, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting as presented. The vote was as follows.

Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
------	------	---------	--------

Ralph Gilley, Chairman			
Fred Luntsford, Vice-Chairman			
JH Rivers			
Ruthie Rainey			
Hibert Tackett, Jr.			
Bob Adkins			
Worley Smith			
Robby Robbins			

The motion was passed.

PROJECT UPDATES

Director Cody McElroy submitted project updates on behalf of T&L.

Airport Hollow Pump Station Replacement

Waiting on DEQ.

Hamilton Town Sewer Extension

Survey is complete and waiting on preliminary design. We have submitted ARC grant application.

John Broskey submitted project updates on behalf of Lane Group

Banner Sewer

The property owner has agreed to sale the property for the Pump Station so that can be finalized.

Glamorgan Sewer

Aerial survey has been completed and are now working on digitizing it and putting together a topographic map.

Upper Guest River Sewer Phase I

ARC applications have been submitted. Finalizing the PER for Phase I, II, and III so that the DHCD Application can be completed hopefully by April.

Director Cody McElroy submitted project updates for Mattern & Craig

Natural Gas RFP

Have been in conversations with Paramont Coal Company Coal and Gas and we have received their mapping of their system of the County so we can look at potential locations we can buy from wholesalers as they do. They also supply natural gas to Appalachia Natural Gas.

Garbage Collection Study

We have received a draft report that lays out some routes and requirements from the economic side of how many customers we would need for it to pay for a truck and a crew to work. Mr. Hatfield has asked Director Cody McElroy to come to a workshop for the Board of Supervisors on February 17th and give a brief update on this as it pertains to the Board of Supervisors.

Director Cody McElroy submitted project updates for PSA projects

High Knob Rec Area Water

We have funding in place for the well but we are waiting on the Forrest Service to do their environmental review. They want to do some testing up there to make sure we are not hurting any species and this cannot take place until March. Some funds have been opened up on the Forrest Service side to aid them in replacing the rest of system. If the funding takes place along with the PSA and City of Norton, this could be a complete renovation of the water system from the ground up of a new well and new line throughout.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

The Town of Coeburn, Wise County, VRA, and the PSA have been working together to have a MOU for the moral obligations funds the County has been asked to do for the Town projects. The MOU is now in place that states Wise County agrees to do a moral obligation if the Town of Coeburn defaults on any payments for these funds. Should there be a default of payments, the Town agrees to transfer the system (assets and customers) to Wise County and the Wise County Public Service Authority. The County agrees to assume outstanding loan balance and agrees to provide a support agreement and moral obligation to the PSA for so long as the loan is outstanding. The PSA agrees to accept, operate and fulfill all the obligations and responsibilities of the Town under the Financing Agreement. The Town's sewer included in this debt is necessary to be completed so the PSA's Banner project can commence.

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, and seconded by Ruthie Rainey, that the Board accept the terms of the County/Town of Coeburn Sewer MOU as presented, allowing the Coeburn projects to proceed and ultimately the PSA's. The vote was as follows.

Ayes Nays Abstain Absent

Ralph Gilley, Chairman
Fred Luntsford, Vice-Chairman
JH Rivers
Ruthie Rainey
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins

The motion was passed.

A Rural Development Resolution was presented to the Board as we look at our next year's budget to replace our leased vehicles. Rural Development has a program called Community Facilities where they make loans/grants awards to public entities and we do quality for this. We are going to apply now, but not be used till after July, to replace two service trucks. We can qualify for up to \$50,000 grant on this project. It should be around \$91,000 for both trucks. If we get the grant, we would finance a five-year vehicle loan on the \$41,000 with a good rate.

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, and seconded by Worley Smith, that the Board adopt the Rural Development Resolution to authorize Director Cody McElroy to move forward with the application and sign papers on behalf of the PSA. The vote was as follows.

Ayes Nays Abstain Absent

Ralph Gilley, Chairman
Fred Luntsford, Vice-Chairman
JH Rivers
Ruthie Rainey
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins

The motion was passed.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Director Cody McElroy provided a monthly update regarding PSA operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are monitoring cases and the positivity rate in our area has dropped.

Our kiosk is in the final stages and hope to have training very soon.

The moratorium for utility disconnects is still in effect. We are a little over \$21,000 in arrears and the magic number for us is over \$38,000. We did receive a little over \$8,500 in COVID relief and have used over \$3,000 of that.

The Health Department has approved our employees to be vaccinated.

Our staff is doing a good job of cleaning and distancing. We will continue to monitor the COVID cases for operations and continue to proactively educate our staff to stay healthy.

Next month's meeting will be held in the Board Room for all the Board members that want to attend and virtual for those that are not comfortable attending in person.

FINANCIALS

None

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Ralph Gilley, and seconded by JH Rivers, to go into closed session at 6:20 p.m. under Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A) (1 & 8). The vote was as follows.

Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
------	------	---------	--------

Ralph Gilley, Chairman
Fred Luntsford, Vice-Chairman
JH Rivers
Ruthie Rainey
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins

The motion was passed.

A motion was made by Ralph Gilley, and seconded by Robby Robbins, to return to open session at 6:53 p.m. The vote was as follows.

Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
------	------	---------	--------

Ralph Gilley, Chairman
Fred Luntsford, Vice-Chairman
JH Rivers
Ruthie Rainey
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins

The motion was passed.

A closed session resolution, attached, was read aloud by Director Cody McElroy and a motion was made by JH Rivers, and seconded by Ruthie Rainey, to adopt the resolution. The vote was as follows.

Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
------	------	---------	--------

Ralph Gilley, Chairman
Fred Luntsford, Vice-Chairman
JH Rivers
Ruthie Rainey
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins

The motion was passed.

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, and seconded by Ruthie Rainey, that the Board amend Director Cody McElroy's contract to allow a \$500 a month vehicle allowance for the use of his personal vehicle for PSA business in lieu of a company provided vehicle. The vote was as follows.

Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
------	------	---------	--------

Ralph Gilley, Chairman
Fred Luntsford, Vice-Chairman
JH Rivers
Ruthie Rainey
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins

The motion was passed.

A motion was made by JH Rivers, and seconded by Bob Adkins, that the Board move forward with the agreement for consolidation of the public water and wastewater systems with the Town of Pound by working through Lenowisco, Director Cody McElroy and our attorney Will Sturgill. The vote was as follows.

Ayes Nays Abstain Absent

Ralph Gilley, Chairman
Fred Luntsford, Vice-Chairman
JH Rivers
Ruthie Rainey
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins

The motion was passed.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ruthie Rainey wanted to thank everyone for all the thoughts and prayers during the loss of her father.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Worley Smith, and seconded by Robby Robbins, to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. The vote was as follows.

Ayes Nays Abstain Absent

Ralph Gilley, Chairman
Fred Luntsford, Vice-Chairman
JH Rivers
Ruthie Rainey
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins

The motion was passed.

ATTEST:



Director

Wise County Public Service Authority



Chairman