

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Wise County Public Service Authority held its regular monthly Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the PSA Board Room in Norton. Chairman, Ralph Gilley, called the regular monthly meeting to order and the Director, Cody McElroy, called roll.

Members Present:

Ralph Gilley, Chairman
JH Rivers
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins via telephone
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins
Ruthie Rainey via telephone

Absent:

Fred Luntsford, Vice-Chairman

Also Present:

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

PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, and seconded by Worley Smith, to approve the agenda with the exception of removing under Board Action Items the Department Head Flex Time Policy approval that was tabled from April 2021. The vote was as follows.

Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
			Fred Luntsford

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

The motion was passed.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Opened Public Hearing at 6:15 p.m. for the FY22 Budget and FY22 Rates and Fees and there was no one that showed up so the Public Hearing was closed at 6:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Robby Robbins, and seconded by Worley Smith, to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting as presented. The vote was as follows.

Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
			Fred Luntsford

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

The motion was passed.

PROJECT UPDATES

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

Airport Hollow Pump Station Replacement

It has been approved locally in Abingdon and waiting on the State office to approve it so it can be advertised for bids.

Hamilton Town Sewer Extension

We did receive our ARC Grant. Waiting on the permits to get completed. We do have comments from VDOT and Marine Resources. Waiting on the Corp and DEQ to be cleared on the environmental side and then will be able to apply for funding and the easements. Hopefully the project will begin late Summer or early Fall.

John Broskey submitted project updates on behalf of Lane Group

Banner Sewer

Electrical drawings are all complete and working on submitting to DEQ.

Glamorgan Sewer

The preliminary plans have been submitted and approved. The specs have been started and will be getting easements.

Upper Guest River Sewer Phase I

PER is complete. Presenting a proposal so the environmental report can be completed for Rural Development.

Director Cody McElroy submitted project updates for PSA projects

High Knob Rec Area Water

Forest Service has completed the environmental review and the well site has been cleared. Waiting on the Health Department to schedule an inspection. All the pipe has been ordered for the Rec area and camp ground and once received we will coordinate with the City of Norton to start the installation of the pipe. Hoping the system will be back operational by mid-summer.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Robby Robbins and seconded by JH Rivers, to approve the FY22 Budget as presented. The vote was as follows.

Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent Fred Luntsford
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Ralph Gilley, Chairman
JH Rivers
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins
Ruthie Rainey

The motion was passed.

A motion was made by Ralph Gilley and seconded by Worley Smith, to approve the FY22 Rates and Fees as presented. The vote was as follows.

Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent Fred Luntsford
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Ralph Gilley, Chairman
JH Rivers
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins
Ruthie Rainey

The motion was passed.

After going through the study and speaking with several members of the County, we would like to request pricing from private contractors. The market seems to be providing lower prices than originally thought for these contracts and we would like to request bids. The services to be bid out are: residential weekly pickup, commercial/business weekly pickup (same as residential), and a few options of dumpster service for commercial.

A motion was made by JH Rivers, and seconded by Robby Robbins, that the Board authorize staff to advertise a request for bids regarding solid waste collection. The vote was as follows.

Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent Fred Luntsford
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Ralph Gilley, Chairman
JH Rivers
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins
Ruthie Rainey

The motion was passed.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Director Cody McElroy provided a monthly update regarding PSA operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are continuing to monitor cases.

Our kiosk has been live since March 8, 2021. The kiosk instructions have been posted on our website, beside the kiosk machine, and instructions being handed out by upfront staff. We have seen an increase in usage.

We are working very closely with the County Administrator regarding the upcoming American Rescue Plan funds to secure as much as we can to assist the PSA. The preliminary guidance for these funds does show the ability to invest them in water, sewer, and broadband. The PSA will be requesting funds for deferred maintenance.

Our customer payments are on the same trend with several customers in arrears. If we would have cone disconnects for nonpayment in April there would have been 194 people disconnected. There is a possibility the State of Emergency may be ended by the middle to end of June, until then we are still under the disconnect moratorium for utility disconnects. We have \$28,000 in arrears and the magic number for us is over \$38,000.

Ruthie Rainey asked if we could have discussions about putting an awning over the kiosk and Director Cody McElroy stated that is something we have thought about and could possibly be done with American Rescue Plan funds.

Director Cody McElroy provided an update on the Town of Pound. We are still in a holding pattern. There were talks with the Health Department about an order for stopping recreational entrance into the water from Pound sewer plant to Skeet Rock bridge in Dickenson County.

There was a meeting held with the Town of Coeburn concerning their sewer MOU and the County moral obligation. Several things were negotiated if the PSA were to take over any connections due to default. The Town also agreed to relieve the PSA of transmission fees for the Banner project through their system.

The Town of Appalachia has approached the PSA in regards to a potential consolidation of the Andover Community sewer system into the PSA's existing wastewater utility because it is out of the Town limit. A meeting was held between the two entities on April 8th in Appalachia. The Andover community has 52 active sewer customers and 4 septic systems remaining in the community. They would like to look at the possibility of the PSA taking this system to better allow for the repair and/or replacement as needed. The Town would like to discuss this endeavor only if they are not able to adequately secure the funding for repair/replacement and if it would hinder their other planned budget projects.

We have been in communications with Mr. Sargent, who is on the Board with the water district in Kentucky, wishing to purchase water from the PSA in the Flat Gap area of our system. The PSA has the capacity to begin providing water for the first phase of the Kentucky system which includes 60-65 homes without any upgrades to our system. The line is in place on our side to the state line and Kentucky utility would need to install a meter vault and tie to our line. We should be able to get close to \$4.00 per thousand gallons as a wholesale rate.

FINANCIALS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Worley Smith, and seconded by Robby Robbins, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. The vote was as follows.

Ayes

Nays

Abstain

Absent

Fred Luntsford

Ralph Gilley, Chairman

JH Rivers

Hibert Tackett, Jr.

Bob Adkins

Worley Smith

Robby Robbins

Ruthie Rainey

The motion was passed.

ATTEST:

Wise County Public Service Authority



Director



Chairman

CERTIFICATION OF A CLOSED SESSION

WHEREAS, The Wise County Public Service Authority has convened a Closed Session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and;

WHEREAS, Section 2.2 - 3711 (as 3+8) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Wise County Public Service Authority that such Closed Session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Wise County Public Service Authority hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the Closed Session to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the Closed Session were heard, discussed, or considered by the Wise County Public Service Authority.

VOTE:

AYES: 7

NAYS: 0

ABSENT DURING VOTE: Luntsford

ABSENT DURING MEETING: Luntsford

ATTEST:


Executive Director, Clerk

WISE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY


Chairman

Date: 6/8/21

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the Wise County Public Service Authority Board of Directors are hereby authorized to be included as employees for the purposes of the Worker's Compensation Act of the Commonwealth of Virginia and are entitled to coverage provided under said Act.

Adopted 8th day of June, 2021

BY: , Chairman