

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Wise County Public Service Authority held its regular monthly Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Chairman, Fred Luntsford, called the regular monthly meeting to order and the Director, Cody McElroy, called roll.

Members Present:

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

Absent:

Ralph Gilley, Chairman

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

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

The motion was passed.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Worley Smith, and seconded by Robby Robbins, to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023, meeting as presented. The vote was as follows.

Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Fred Luntsford		JH Rivers	Ralph Gilley
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.

Hamilton Town Sewer Extension

Project is over half-way done and should be completed within 45 days.

Lower Bold Camp

The Notice to Proceed date is May 1st. The Engineer is working with McFall Excavating to get all the documents completed. The project does have a time restriction for any construction work from July 1st to October 31st due to the Big Sandy Cray Fish.

Pound WWTP Upgrades

Pre-Construction meeting was last month. Working on delivery estimates for equipment and materials. The back-up generator for the sewer plant has a lead time of 80 weeks. Construction should begin in mid-July.

John Broskey submitted project updates on behalf of Lane Group.

Banner Sewer

There have been meetings with the funding agencies, and they wanted some different scenarios and a proposal submitted for some other options for the project.

Glamorgan Sewer

There have been meetings with the funding agencies, and they wanted some different scenarios and a proposal submitted for some other options for the project.

Upper Guest River Sewer Phase 1

Project is currently on hold due to not receiving any ARPA funds from DEQ.

Pound Water Treatment Plant Improvements

The Plans are 75% complete and working on comments from PSA staff. Plans should be 100% complete by the end of next week and ready for VDH submission by the middle of May.

Director Cody McElroy submitted project updates for Mattern & Craig

Pound River Interceptor

Preliminary Design is almost complete. The Environmental Process has begun with the clearing house agencies, and it should take approximately 15-18 months.

St. Paul Interconnect Study

RD application was submitted in February to determine what it would take for the Town of St. Paul and Wise County PSA to connect our water systems from Virginia City where the Power Plant is to Carfax water plant. The study and Environmental report would determine what construction would be needed to connect these two systems to supply water to the Town of St. Paul as an alternate water source. A grant of about \$35,000 was received to complete this study.

Director Cody McElroy submitted project updates for PSA

Bear Creek Community Water

The plans have been submitted to the Health Department in Richmond for their review. The funding agreement is close to being finalized for the Board of Supervisors to sign. Project should be bid in the summer.

Family Crisis Utilities

The sewer line is complete and hooked to all units. The water line is installed but they are waiting for a pressure reducing valve and a 2" meter to arrive. The occupants should be able to move in by June.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Director Cody McElroy presented the FY24 budget to the Board, requesting authorization to advertise for the public hearing for rates and budget in May, with budget approval afterward. He highlighted some key points on the budget:

The PSA staff is presenting a balanced budget for FY24. Compared to the FY23 budget, the FY24 budget will see a 4.37% increase in revenues and expenses.

The expenses increased 4.37% or just under \$270,00 due to the following:

Salaries include a 5.0% COLA adjustment. There is no merit raise proposed. Also, as in the FY23 budget, a single bonus is included for the staff. Health insurance rates increased by 0% for FY24. The budget proposed keeps the employer/employee percentage split the same. Employees will see no change in their monthly contributions to health insurance. The expenses are planned for continuing increases in categories such as fuel, treatment chemicals, and maintenance supplies (pipe, valves, etc..).

Coal Severance funds continue to be budgeted as equal revenue received and capital offset expensed. For the last few budget cycles, there has been no planned operating or debt expenses planned for using coal severance funds given the volatility of this revenue.

Proposed Rates:

VRA has dictated that we adopt rates showing parity of 1.15 is achieved for three (3) budget years. Therefore, as in the past few years, proposed rates for FY24, FY25, and FY26 are shown to satisfy this requirement.

We are looking to increase our water minimum rate by \$4.50 going from \$30.50 to \$35.00 base rate and an increase in incremental rate from \$12.50 to \$13.00. For the industrial the same thing. On the sewer there will also be a \$4.00 rate increase from \$42.00 to \$46.00 on the base rate and an increase on the increment rate from \$14.00 to \$14.50. The FY24 budget does not include any changes to other fees for WCPSA including items such as deposits, connection fees, etc.

The FY24 solid waste rates for residential service will remain the same as FY23 but the commercial will see an increase of \$10 per daily pickup for FY24.

A motion was made by Bob Adkins and seconded by Robby Robbins, to authorize the advertisement of the public hearing for FY24 budget at 6:00 PM on May 9, 2023, with regular meeting to follow, at the PSA offices. The vote was as follows.

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

The motion was passed.

A motion was made by JH Rivers, and seconded by Worley Smith, to authorize the advertisement of the public hearing for proposed FY24, FY25, and FY26 Rates/Fees immediately following the FY24 Budget public hearing at 6:00 PM on May 9, 2023, with regular meeting to follow, at the PSA offices. The vote was as follows.

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

The motion was passed.

The Authority declares certain property as surplus so that the equipment may be disposed of that is no longer needed or past its useful life. We have the following equipment that needs to be declared as surplus:

- 1 Case Backhoe
- 2 trenchers
- Sewer belt press
- Air compressor
- Trench boxes

A motion was made by Ruthie Rainey, and seconded by JH Rivers, to allow the Board to declare the above property surplus and authorize the Director to commission a public auction for selling of the surplus property. The vote was as follows.

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

The motion was passed.

For the last few years, the PSA has been operating and maintaining the decentralized wastewater treatment facility at the old Appalachia Elementary School. In recent years, MECC has been utilizing the campus for various programs they offer. The wastewater plant has reached the end of its life and is no longer functioning. The PSA has been pumping and hauling wastewater weekly to avoid the discharge of untreated wastewater to the nearby stream. DEQ has issued a warning letter to the County due to the state of the plant currently.

The PSA has been working with the County and MECC to procure funding to move towards a pump station to serve this facility and send flows to the Town of Appalachia.

MECC has pledged \$125,000 to kickstart the project by completing design. To be able to tie all parties together and explain the process, an inter-agency agreement between the PSA, County, and MECC is desired to show the flow of funds from MECC to the PSA as well as the County's commitment to the project completion.

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, and seconded by JH Rivers, that the Board authorize the Director and PSA legal counsel to create and execute an inter-agency agreement as described for this sewer project. The vote was as follows.

Ayes

Nays

Abstain

Absent

Ralph Gilley

Fred Luntsford
JH Rivers
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Worley Smith
Robby Robbins
Ruthie Rainey

The motion was passed.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Garbage Service Updates

We currently have around 800 residential solid waste customers. Both new garbage trucks have arrived and are being used. The new four-wheel drive smaller truck will be built starting next week and hope to receive it within a few weeks. Once we receive the smaller truck, we will start advertising the private-drive service. More residential cans have been ordered.

Regional Sewer Study Findings

A regional sewer study was completed a month ago that was commissioned by DEQ, Lenowisco, Mount Rogers, and Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commissions to look at our region's sewer needs. It was determined that \$1.6 billion worth of sewer work needs to be done. The PSA has some favorable projects in our service area with this study.

FINANCIALS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Fred Luntsford wanted to thank the staff for all their hard work to be able to submit a balanced budget.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Worley Smith, and seconded by Ruthie Rainey, to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. The vote was as follows.

Ayes

Nays

Abstain

Absent

Ralph Gilley

Fred Luntsford

JH Rivers

Hibert Tackett, Jr.

Bob Adkins

Worley Smith

Robby Robbins

Ruthie Rainey

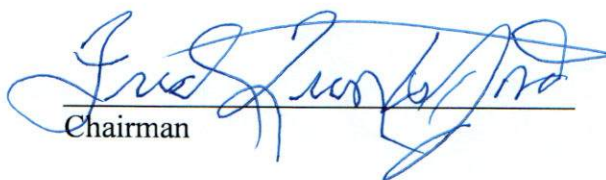
The motion was passed.

ATTEST:

Wise County Public Service Authority



Director



Chairman