

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Wise County Public Service Authority held its regular monthly Board Meeting on Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Ralph Gilley, Chairman, 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, Treasurer
Hibert Tackett, Jr.
Bob Adkins
Robby Robbins
Rusty Peters

Absent:

Worley Smith

Also Present:

Cody McElroy, Executive Director
Elaine Minor, Recording Secretary
Will Sturgill, Wise County PSA Attorney

PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

The motion was passed.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Opened Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m. Belinda Couch, living at 511 Hamilton Street SE, Coeburn, VA spoke on behalf of her in-laws. The Public Hearing was closed at 6:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by JH Rivers, and seconded by Fred Luntsford, to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2024, meeting as presented. The vote was as follows.

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

The motion was passed.

PROJECT UPDATES

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

Pound I/I

Waiting on Easement mapping so we can add them to the Easements to be done. Also waiting on the Environmental

Pound WWTP Upgrades

Contractor is 74% complete of their contract time with the new extension and 63% of the budget.

Director Cody McElroy submitted project updates on behalf of Lane Group

Banner Sewer

A contract came out September 13th for the additional \$2 million funding from ARC and waiting on Mr. Hatfield’s signature. There is a meeting between DHCD and ARC on October 9th. Funding, Easements, and Permits are in hand, and we are just waiting for the final contract to be signed.

Pound Water Treatment Plant Improvements

Should know by the beginning of October if we will receive the additional \$400,000 grant money from VDH.

Pound System-Wide Improvements 2023

Still waiting on the Environmental for the Big Sandy Cray Fish.

Appalachia Elementary School Sewer

There will be a call on the 18th with Lenowisco and the college concerning the additional \$200,000 construction funding that has been unallocated.

Director Cody McElroy submitted project updates for Mattern & Craig

Pound River Interceptor

Property has been purchased for the pumping station. There are 103 Easements for this project.

St. Paul Interconnect Study

We have to get some information back to the Engineer so the PER can be turned back in. Environmental Report has been approved. Once the PER is approved, then we can apply for Construction Funds. We will have to meet again with the Town of St. Paul to make sure everyone agrees to moving forward with the project.

Director Cody McElroy submitted project updates for PSA

Pound - Pilkenton Peak & Highland Avenue

The main line is in on the four-lane side and is being tested. Some additional line was installed in the trailer park in Crosscourt off Southfork. The pad is done for the tank and finishing the road up to the tank. Construction should be completed within the next month and then the closeout paperwork.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

The revised disconnect policy was presented to the Board which has been updated to reflect Virginia Code Section 15.2-2121.3 Notice procedures for nonpayment: disconnecting utility service.

The main items to note are the reflection of the 45-day arrears of accounts prior to disconnection, publication of disconnect policy on our website (will occur post-approval) in Spanish and English, listing of available resources for bill assistance on our website.

We are also offering to coordinate/collaborate with other county utilities and plan to share our policy with them after approval.

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, and seconded by Rusty Peters, to approve the revised Disconnect Policy for compliance with new state law. The vote was as follows.

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

The motion was passed.

DIRECTOR'S ITEMS

Apprenticeship Program With WCCTC

We have been working with the Vocational Tech Center for two years on an apprenticeship program. This summer we worked through VA Tech who had a grant with themselves, UK, West Virginia, and UT to promote water and wastewater operators for high school student summer internships. We had two students from the technical school who worked this summer, and their salaries were paid by a grant from the Department of Labor. We have been working with the technical school to be an approved apprenticeship for water and wastewater, and this got approved two weeks ago with the DOL. The student could start their Junior year of high school, work half days their Junior and Senior year, summers, breaks, and the year after they graduate. By doing this they could get 4,000 hours over those three years and they would not have to take the test for their initial water and sewer license based upon hours of work experience for their Class 4.

FINANCIALS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Robby Robbins wanted to thank the PSA for all the help with a water issue. He also thinks the PSA needs to look at getting a directional boring machine.

JH Rivers wants the PSA to look at the UVA development concerning any stipulations where the Town of Wise and the PSA can serve the same areas.

Fred Luntsford, Rusty Peters, and Ralph Gilley all iterated what a great conference it was in Savannah, GA.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, and seconded by Robby Robbins, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The vote was as follows.

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


The motion was passed.

ATTEST:

Wise County Public Service Authority



Director



Chairman