



Grayson County Public Service Authority

P.O. Box 217, Independence, VA 24348

October 13, 2022

5:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES Of the Public Service Authority

Members Present

John S. Fant
Michael S. Hash
Kenneth R. Belton
R. Brantley Ivey
Tracy A. Anderson – arrived at 5:14 p.m.

Staff Present

Paul Hoyle
Mitch Smith

Member(s) Absent

CALL TO ORDER

- Mr. Fant called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/CONSENT AGENDA

- Mr. Belton made the motion to approve the agenda/consent agenda; duly seconded by Mr. Ivey. Motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- Louisville Lane Extension – have a potential funding source and if it qualifies, will follow up with more information. The County received a letter from Mr. Zach Stockner with a list of the residents affected by the extension: Jack Stockner, Suzanne Wingate, Barry Liddle, Roger Winesett, Heather Wood, Jeff Moser and Staci Galyean. Mr. Hoyle noted that the County has not received a petition from those residents yet. Mr. Hoyle noted that the County is outside the window for the Virginia Department of Health fund so will roll the project into the next application period (50% funding) and will look to Mt. Rogers Planning District Commission for the \$100,000. It's possible with the potential funding source, it possibly could cover 100% grant match. Mr. Fant inquired that with the scheduled ARPA meeting next week, if this needed to be on that agenda for further discussion and Mr. Hoyle noted that would be good – important part is to see if the project

is going to move forward – if so, then we'll seek all possible avenues for funding – some of the funding request will be contingent upon the decision of the Board which will need to be in the form of a letter of intent.

- ServLine Program – Insurance program where citizens receive a small amount into their monthly utility bill which provides leak insurance for them. Mr. Hoyle did approach all three Towns (Troutdale, Fries and Independence) about doing as a collective group and Troutdale and Fries indicated they are interested – waiting on Independence to acquire a Town Manager. Mr. Hoyle noted that ServLine would like to do a short presentation/question-answer at the next PSA meeting – Board agreed, and Mr. Hoyle will set up the meeting with them.
- Notice of Violation(s) - have been filed and no further action is required. We are required to have the notices out by July 1 and on October 1 the certifications have to be sent out – Mr. Hoyle noted he was working off the July 1 deadline and missed the October 1 deadline.

NEW BUSINESS

- PFAS Cost Recovery Program – regarding Forever Chemicals that are entering into water systems – we will not be exempt from dealing with this because we have a small system – once mandating starts we'll probably find it in our water – Virginia Rural Water Association (VRWA) and National Rural Water Association (NRWA) have engaged with an attorney to look at a cost recovery program so if damages attributed to the physical liabilities to the water works in the future, they wanted to make us aware of recovery costs from a lawsuit that will be taken against the manufacturers of the chemicals. It has been vetted by our County Attorney and cautioned Mr. Hoyle about the registration which by registering makes you party to the cost recovery program and if you are aware of any testing that's been done that shows a positive indication that there is PFAS chemicals in our water system, then you become automatically a party to the lawsuit – if there's not positive indication of those chemicals in the water system, the same registry would place us on a list to be notified if it's determined to be cost recovery in the future. Mr. Hoyle noted that it's highly recommended by VRWA and NRWA to sign for the registry. This is a registration process so if in the future there's a lawsuit against the manufacturers of the chemicals and it's determined money will be recovered and turned over to communities that have been affected, then we would be on the list of communities affected. Mr. Hoyle noted that he's not sure if Fries and Troutdale are considering this. Mr. Hoyle noted that as described to him we would not be signing up for the lawsuit at this point because we have no water samples that indicate those chemicals are in our water – we would be on the same registry as those that have signed up for the lawsuit. Mr. Hoyle noted the information he has is that the chemical users are not party to the lawsuit – only the manufacturer – so if a business in the County who has utilized these chemicals as part of a manufacturing process, they would not be part of the lawsuit – they would not be going to them to recover funds, only to the manufacturer. This is the very early stages and there are a lot of unknowns at this time – VRWA has endorsed this – they won't discuss, they just refer you their law team of Napoli-Shkolnik PLLC, Attorneys at Law. Mr. Hoyle will reach back out to the Rural Water Association to

let them know our PSA Board wants more information from them directly and see if it's possible to have for the next PSA meeting.

- Lead-Copper Rural (LCR) Update – create our inventory - must be completed by October 16, 2024 – publish to the VDH Office of Drinking Water – we have to look at every connection we have and identify whether there is lead in the service line before the meter – most of this can be done through records review – also responsible for doing the same thing for the service line from the meter to the customer's house – if customer refuses to cooperate, they will go into an “unknown” category – VDH Office of Drinking Water will look at the numbers on an overall basis – this will be time tensive – we can't do it all out of pocket – will need to figure out how to place work hours into next years budget to hire someone to do the inspections – fortunately we are relatively small and our systems are relatively new – this is all federal guidelines – we have to inspect the service line itself where it enters the house – we can hire someone, they can take photos, that's acceptable – if they give indication that all their piping is plastic or copper, we can accept that – one of the questions is can we look at it from the downstream of our meter since we usually install the meter – EPA is not going to accept that only with in-addition to looking at downstream piping – can do it through pot holing or by looking at piping that's exposed to other maintenance activities – gold standard is someone looking at the pipe to determine if it's galvanized or copper – will do a community outreach/public education – this is regulated by the EPA – Office of Drinking Water can site us if we are not compliant – all the County has ever been responsible for is up to the meter; now they are looking at any lead that's being distributed into someone's home – whether from the County or through their own piping system. Mr. Fant noted he feels we should push back – there seems to be a great deal of overage – put a plan together – draft letter from the County to whomever – not responsible nor do we feel required to do anything on the downstream side of the meter, etc. After further discussion, directed staff to compile a letter, circulate with other counties and VACo along with sending to Senator Warner, Senator Kaine and Representative Morgan Griffith. Mr. Hoyle will keep the Board updated.
- 2 other citizens have approached us regarding water connection – right off of Fries Road onto Wagon Wheel – Galax is not willing to do an extension for 4 houses – advised that Grayson County has no intention currently to extend service to that area.

Adjourn

- Mr. Hash made the motion to adjourn; duly seconded by Mr. Brantley.