



## Grayson County Public Service Authority

P.O. Box 217, Independence, VA 24348

March 14, 2024

### **MEETING MINUTES Of the Public Service Authority**

#### **Members Present**

R. Brantley Ivey  
Michael S. Hash  
Tracy A. Anderson  
Mitchell D. Cornett

#### **Staff Present**

Paul Hoyle  
Stephen A. Boyer  
Mitchell L. Smith

#### **Member(s) Absent**

Mary E. Dickenson Tomlinson

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Louisville Lane – Mr. Hoyle noted that the preliminary report and the surveying has been completed and are on track for the RFP to be pushed out in April – price is the same as last year – money would come from either the fund balance or another project – would serve 8-12 homes – potential for more development on that lane – Authority requested staff send out maps to each member – County has paid out \$67K and we received a \$100K grant – if decision is made to move project down the road, it would be another 2 years – ARPA money is eligible for this but the number 1 priority for the ARPA money is communications and number 2 is childcare – no action required at this point – once we authorize them to move forward with the RFP, then we are committed to moving forward – Mr. Cornett requested staff look at options to pay for the project from money set aside or money not being used to the next meeting.
- Rate Adjustment – Mr. Hoyle noted that no consensus has been reached yet – it will need to be decided soon as a public hearing will have to be held regarding the rate increase possibly in May – discussion regarding the rate increase took place and Mr. Boyer noted that we're looking in the 35% range as Galax is paying for their new system which in turn is passing some

of the cost on to it's users which includes Grayson County – need to renegotiate with Galax regarding the rates – we have approximated 350 water customers in Old Town/Fairview – regarding the western end, Troutdale will be going up on their water rates – VCWA does have customers on Rt. 21S on the town water system – there was an approximate deficit last year of \$80K - Mr. Boyer noted that regarding the County PSA workers, did have to hire a contractor to help install a master meter – concerned about Troutdale because if something happens to Billy Mitchell, Keither Anderson is the only current backup - it's a challenge to acquire help because the process to get someone qualified is tough because the pass rates are around 33-35% - a qualified operator (Keith is our only qualified operator) has to be present when the work is being performed and Wytheville Community College is no longer offering the class and Keith is looking to see who else offers the class – tasked staff to work on rate adjustment based on current loss/keep up with what Galax has increased or a rate adjustment based on just the increase from Galax (Galax rates are increasing each year for the next 3 years) – staff will provide a couple courses of action at the next meeting to cover all the current loss with the rate increase and the one option would be with the new hire – if Galax's rates increase each year then we would probably have to increase ours as well to avoid being in the same position we are now – a public hearing would be required each time a rate increase is proposed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Violation – Over Capacity – Mr. Hoyle noted that the County is currently under a violation with the Department of Health – Office of Drinking Water – we are over our capacity of water usage in the agreement with Galax to purchase for the past 12 months – primarily due to the loss but could possibly be associated a meter issue – our maximum water capacity is 101,000 gallons – we have responded to VDH by letter advising them we are researching the possibility of adding water sources, aggressively working on leak reduction and approaching Galax to ask for an increase in our capacity – Mr. Hoyle is requesting from the Authority to give him permission to approach Galax and request a 15% increase in our capacity which would clear us from this violation – Mr. Cornett made the motion to approve the request; duly seconded by Mr. Hash. Motion carried 4-0.

#### **ADJOURN**

- Mr. Anderson made the motion to adjourn; duly seconded by Mr. Hash. Motion carried 4-0.