

HARDY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT
MAY 3, 2023
4:30 P.M.
2094 US 220 South, Moorefield, West Virginia

Present: Rob Harper, Logan Moyers, Justin Basye, Rose Helmick, Connie Sherman -HCPD.

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Chairman Robert Harper. Robert Harper made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2023 regular meeting minutes with one wording revision. Rose Helmick seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

New PSD Facility Project – Logan Moyers informed the board that site works continues to show progress on the District's new facility project. The construction contract is a one-year contract with a substantial completion date of April 1, 2024 and a final completion date of May 1, 2024. There is no pay requisition for approval at this month's meeting. Pay requisition #3 along with Change Order #1 will be presented for approval at next month's meeting. The change order will include the work to relocate the underground electric line that the contractor discovered during the clearing of the project site. It has been determined that the underground electric line is actually an electric loop installed to provide service to American Woodmark in case of an emergency. Potomac Edison will de-energize the line and pull the electric cable out of the existing conduit and the contractor will install new conduit for the line at a greater depth than is currently situated. Potomac Edison will then re-install the electric line in the new conduit and re-charge the line for future use. The work will take place next week in order to avoid any delay in the construction of the new facility project. The change order will also include several other small changes that have been made including replacing some sewer line manholes with cleanouts and some additional casework in the office layout.

Carla Acres II Water Storage Tank – Logan Moyers reported that it is anticipated the site work for the Carla Acres II storage tank is scheduled to be completed by the subcontractor in June and July with the tank construction to be done in August and September. It is hoped that all work included in the tank project contract can be completed and operational by the end of 2023.

Baker Secondary Water Source – Logan Moyers provided an update on the District's ongoing efforts to establish a secondary water source for the Baker water system. As was previously discussed, the District received a lengthy list from NRCS with requests for further evaluations and additional work to be completed before authorization could be given to proceed with test wells to determine the project's viability. The additional work included significant subsurface evaluations and complete engineered design of the proposed project, should the test wells provide adequate flow to serve as a secondary water source. The list of items requested by NRCS was shared with the consulting engineers and groundwater hydrologists so that a cost for completing the required work could be developed. It was estimated the requested work would cost another \$220,000 in addition to the \$30,000 of work that has already been completed and submitted by the District. General Manager, Logan Moyers met with the Hardy County Commission to discuss the need for additional funding in order to develop the additional information now being required by NRCS engineers. The HCC had previously committed \$100,000 of county funds toward preliminary expenses for the project and now an additional \$150,000 would be needed to provide the information being required by NRCS. Both Moyers and the HCC feel the additional information being requested by NRCS goes beyond what is necessary to make a determination on any potential negative impacts the wells could have on the Impoundment. The HCC is also reluctant to provide \$250,000 in county funds toward the project when there is no guarantee NRCS will allow the project to move forward following their evaluation of the requested information or that the test wells will produce sufficient flow to be used as a secondary water source. Both Moyers and the HCC feel it would be appropriate to provide enough information to NRCS to allow them to feel comfortable that the proposed wells will not negatively impact the Impoundment so that authorization to drill the test wells could be obtained and it can be determined if the project is feasible before spending significant money on

items such as complete engineered design of the project. It was decided that HCC will reach out to Senators Manchin and Capito along with State level representatives and request that they reach out to representatives of the State Conservation Committee (SCC), including WV agricultural commissioner, Kent Leonhardt who is chairman of the SCC, to see if they would allow the District to provide a reduced scope of work in order to get authorization to move forward with the test wells. Logan will also reach out to a contact he knows, Angie Rosser, director of WV Rivers Coalition, who is also a member of the SCC, to see if she can provide any insight or suggestions as to how the District should go about obtaining permission to move forward with the test wells without having to initially complete the full amount of work required by NRCS.

Town of Wardensville Rate Increase – Logan Moyers provided an update on the proposed rate increase from the Town of Wardensville. The Town adopted a rate ordinance in March that proposed a 175% rate increase for the rate paid by the District. The District currently pays \$3.69 per thousand gallons of water used and Wardensville requested that rate be increased to \$10.12. The District protested the increase with the WV Public Service Commission, believing the rate proposed by the Town was excessive and requested that WVPSC make a determination on an appropriate rate. Moyers told board members WVPSC staff has calculated an appropriate increase for the District to be \$7.10, slightly more than half the rate that was proposed by Wardensville. The District was pleased that WVPSC staff determined the rate requested by Wardensville was excessive and feels the rate proposed by WVPSC staff is much more appropriate. Moyers told board members the \$7.10 rate determined by WVPSC is only a proposal and the case will continue with a final rate determined at the conclusion of the case.

Town of Moorefield Water Purchase Contract – Logan Moyers reported that he had no update regarding the PSD's water purchase contract with the Town. The last update from the Town was that they were working with their attorney to review the proposed agreement as drafted by the District's attorney before the new agreement is put before the Town Council and PSD Board for approval.

FY24 Budget – Moyers presented the board a proposed \$2 million operating budget for fiscal year 2024. The board members are to review the proposed budget and bring any questions or discussion to the next board meeting when the budget will need to be approved and adopted. The board will also consider a one-time end-of-year salary increase to employees, if the District finishes the current year with an operational surplus. Moyers will develop options for the one-time increase to be reviewed by the board at the next meeting.

PFAS Results and Public Notice - Moyers told the board that the District has been informed that PFAS chemicals have been detected in the Baker Public Water System. The WV Bureau for Public Health contracted with the US Geological Service (USGS) to test all water systems in WV for PFAS and the chemicals were detected in 38 water systems throughout the State. PFAS chemicals are used throughout the world in waterproofing and stain repellent applications and have only recently been discovered to be a potentially hazardous contaminant in drinking water. PFAS chemicals have been unregulated by the government up to this point, however the EPA is in the process of establishing a maximum contaminant level for some of the most commonly found PFAS chemicals. The EPA has proposed a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 4.0 parts per trillion with a health advisory level (at 1/100th of that amount) of 0.04 parts per trillion. Preliminary results for a sample taken from the Baker water system discovered only one PFAS compound, PFOA, was present at a value of 2.4 parts per trillion; a value below the proposed MCL, but above the health advisory level. Moyers told board members that the District is not required to issue public notice of the presence of PFAS in the Baker water system because it is not yet regulated by the EPA, however in the interest of full public disclosure, the District would be issuing a public notice by mailing information on the presence of PFAS in the water system to all customers in Baker. Moyers also told board members that it is believed the MIEX ion exchange system at the Baker water plant will be able to assist the District in removing the chemical from the water but a new filter media will need to be used for that purpose in conjunction with the existing media that is used for organic material removal. District staff members are participating in bi-weekly conference calls with the Bureau for Public Health and other water systems where PFAS chemicals were detected throughout the State to keep informed of developments in this new on-going issue.

No members of the general public were present at the meeting.

There being no further business, Justin Basye made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Robert Harper seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

The next regular scheduled board meeting will be held **June 7, 2023, 4:30 p.m.** at the office of the PSD located at 2094 US 220 South, Moorefield, West Virginia.



Robert Harper, Chairman

These minutes represent a summary of the subject discussed and the actions taken by the members of the Hardy County Public Service District for the regular meeting held on May 3, 2023.