

HARDY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 6, 2024
4:30 P.M.
45 District Drive, Moorefield, West Virginia

Present: Logan Moyers, Robert Harper, Rose Helmick, Melvin Shook and Connie Sherman – HCPSD.

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Chairman Robert Harper. The minutes of the October 2, 2024 regular meeting were presented. Robert Harper made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Rose Helmick seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business:

Baker Secondary Water Source Project– Logan Moyers provided board members with an update on the Baker secondary water source project. Following the decision at last month's meeting, the District is working with The Thrasher Group to summarize the lengthy report that was prepared by Moody & Associates, the groundwater hydrology firm, before submitting the report to the State Conservation Committee for review. Once the summary has been completed, the District will submit the full report and summary to the SCC and will request authorization to move forward with a full scale project that will develop the test wells into full-scale production wells as well as install the infrastructure necessary to utilize the wells as a secondary water source for the Baker water system. It is anticipated the review process by the SCC will likely be thorough and lengthy as has historically been the case when seeking authorization from the SCC. Board members agreed it would be in the best interest of the District to pair the secondary source project with future extension projects that will add customers, so that the revenue generated from those customers could be used to offset some of the debt associated with the secondary source project and lessen any rate impact the project may bring about. Extension projects will be evaluated in the Arkansaw/Rio area, the Needmore area and on WV Route 259 to the Lost River area. The extension to the Arkansaw/Rio area has already been designed as part of the original Baker water project, which will allow the District to save on engineering design fees and will allow for customer signups to begin in that area in the near future.

PFAS Removal System Project – Testing at the Baker water plant has shown the presence of per/poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). While the levels of PFAS compounds are currently below the maximum contaminant levels (MCL's) allowed in drinking water, it is feared those levels will trend upward in the future and may eventually exceed the MCL's. In light of this, District board members took action to pursue a project that will establish a treatment system that can remove PFAS compounds in accordance with the EPA regulations. The federal government has provided states with debt free funding for eligible PFAS removal projects, that will be awarded on a first come, first serve basis. The District will be working with its consulting engineers at The Thrasher Group to develop a PFAS removal system project and seek a debt-free funding package to fund the project. The District's first and current objective is to determine what technology is best suited to capture and remove PFAS contaminants at the Baker water plant. Options that are currently being evaluated include upgraded membrane filters that could filter out PFAS compounds as well as a possible change in the type of filter media in the MIEX system to one better suited to capture PFAS compounds. Regardless of what PFAS treatment system is ultimately selected, one of the primary concerns with implementing the new technology will be how to dispose of the PFAS-contaminated waste that is generated during the treatment process. PFAS removal systems do not oxidize PFAS compounds, but rather capture PFAS and sequester it from the finished water that is ultimately put into the distribution system. The waste that is generated still contains the captured PFAS compounds and must be disposed of in a manner that will destroy the captured compounds and prevent further PFAS pollution. Although new methods are currently being researched, the only current method for PFAS waste destruction is high-temperature incineration and currently there are a very limited number of facilities in the United States that can accommodate that type of disposal and it comes with a significant price tag. A disposal method for captured PFAS will be determined and incorporated into the project. An Engineering Services Agreement with The Thrasher Group for the planning phase of the PFAS removal system project was presented for approval in the amount of \$30,000.00. Rose Helmick made a motion to execute the agreement as presented. Robert Harper seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Telemetry Upgrade Project – Logan Moyers provided an update on the project to upgrade the District's telemetry system. The new vendor, C2G, has begun their evaluation of the District's telemetry needs and has conducted a field visit to all sites so that work can begin on the upgrade of the District's telemetry system. As part of the development of the telemetry upgrade, Logan is reviewing the capabilities of the current telemetry system and is providing information to C2G as to what capabilities the new system must offer as well as any capabilities that are not utilized by the District. Moyers noted that the District will be addressing potential problem areas and implementing improved cybersecurity measures as part of the upgrade to the telemetry system. The new upgraded telemetry system will provide consistent, reliable communication between all telemetry sites that will help to ensure uninterrupted water service for customers throughout Hardy County.

Executive Session – Rose Helmick made a motion at 5:05 pm to enter into executive session to discuss the billing clerk job opening. Melvin Shook seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved. At the completion of a review of potential applicants for the position, Rose Helmick made a motion to resume the open board meeting at 5:40 pm. Melvin Shook seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved. Following executive session, it was agreed that four individuals would be interviewed for the billing clerk job.

New Business:

Grant County Request – Cerrone & Associates, the consulting engineering firm for Grant County PSD, reached out to the District to discuss the possibility the District providing water to Grant County PSD at the Grant/Hardy line on Welton Orchard road to serve as an emergency backup source for Grant County PSD's Hedrick Hill water system. Cerrone & Associates reported the average daily use on that system to be approximately 15,000 gallons per day, however the request was to be able to purchase up to 900,000 gallons per month and no more than 6 million gallons per year. The District will work with engineers at The Thrasher Group to determine if this request is feasible and what conditions the District should include as part of a potential water purchase agreement. Board members questioned if the usage would only be in rare emergency situations, what benefit would the District receive in establishing and maintaining a master meter purchase point for such limited usage. Following discussion, it was decided to table any action on the matter until more information was available regarding the District's ability to provide the requested service to Grant County PSD.

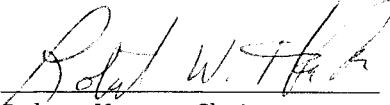
Miscellaneous Business:

2025 Board Meeting Dates – Board meeting dates for calendar year 2025 were presented for approval at the meeting. All meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month except for January, July and December, which are scheduled for the second Wednesday of those months. Robert Harper made a motion to approve the meeting dates as presented. Rose Helmick seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved. The dates will be published as a Class I legal ad in the Moorefield Examiner.

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

There being no further business, Rose Helmick made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Robert Harper seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 4:30 pm at the office of the District located at 45 District Drive which is a change from the previously posted meeting date. The annual Christmas dinner will be held following the meeting.


Robert Harper, Chairman