

Lee County Public Service Authority



January 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- The Lee County Public Service Authority's Board of Directors conducted their regular monthly board meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, at the PSA office in Jonesville, Virginia.
- Chairman Bill Carter called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. following the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Chairman Carter performed a roll call of board members and determined a quorum was present. Participating in the meeting were board members: Bill Carter, Roger Gates, Robert Horton, Greg Rasnic, and Harold Jerrell. Others participating were LCPSA Executive Director Tracy Puckett, LCPSA Assistant Director Mike Brindle and Jon Broskey with The Lane Group.

Agenda:

- Jerrell made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Gates and approved unanimously.

Public Expression:

- Bryan Bales, from Fleenortown, complimented the board and PSA staff on the authority's operations. He explained that the Fleenortown area was recently placed under a Boil Water Advisory (due to the Town of Jonesville having multiple main line leaks) and it was by luck that his family found the announcement on Facebook. He stated that he understood the PSA had sent out the notice to the local news stations, Facebook, and placed it on their website. He asked if such notices could utilize a text notification system, such as the one the PSA previously used a few years ago. Brindle explained that the PSA's billing software has texting and emailing capabilities and that the PSA will be working to make the alert system available in the near future and thanked Mr. Bales for bringing that matter to the PSA's attention.

Financial Report:

- Horton made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Gates seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

- Jerrell made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as presented. Horton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Director's Report:

- Director Puckett provided a brief overview of PSA operations and projects, highlighting the following during his Director's Status Report:
 - Maple Hill project – *Construction began on this project shortly after the New Year, with Estes Bros Construction already making significant progress on the main line. Since the project began, several more user agreements have been secured, bringing the number of connections to nearly 30.*
 - Giles Hollow project – *This project is complete, with hopes of utilizing money left over from the project to extend the line a little further onto Crockett Ridge Rd.*
 - Cross Creek/Dryden/Hickory Flats Sewer project – *The PSA will be re-submitting another funding application in January in hopes of receiving a better offer.*
 - Western Lee Sewer project – *The PSA is continuing to work with the County, The Lane Group and Army Corps of Engineers on land appraisals and easements. Brindle explained to the board that he had recently attended a meeting on January 11 with County Administrator Dane Poe, assistant Robby Wright, the Army Corps of Engineers and Ryan Turner with LENOWISCO at the Lee County Airport. The meeting centered around easements and land appraisals, with the possibility of the county using the Army Corps' resources for all land appraisals and easement acquisitions.*
 - Ocoonita-Smyth/Miller Chapel Interconnection – *The PSA has signed a contract with Engineers and design is set to begin.*
 - Phase III Hancock Co, TN/Lee Co, VA – *The original cost estimate was \$175,000.00 of which the PSA did receive an offer of \$109,900.00. The next step was to see if there may be any General Assembly or Technical Assistance funds available which would allow the project materials needed to be fully funded. The PSA recently received notice of funds from the Technical Assistance Program (TA) in the amount of \$55,000.00. The PSA expects to be able to purchase the materials in the near future and schedule a time for work to begin.*
- Rasnic made a motion to accept the Director's Report as presented. Gates seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Under Old Business, Puckett and Brindle gave the board an update on the drought conditions that had been plaguing the region recently. They explained that with recent rainfall and heavy snowfall, Blue Springs was back to pre-drought conditions and KVS has also seen a significant increase in water levels in the quarry. Also, the board ratified a vote on purchasing a new 2024 Crew Cab Utility truck from Freedom Chevrolet in Big Stone Gap. The PSA sent out requests for bids on utility trucks in December 2023, with

Freedom Chevrolet's bid of \$56,971.00 the lowest received. Puckett polled the board and received approval to purchase the truck with the vote ratified during the meeting with Horton making the motion, seconded by Rasnic and passing unanimously.

New Business:

- Under New Business, and following the vote to purchase the new truck, Horton stated that the board had previously authorized Puckett to spend up to \$50,000 without additional board consent. He explained that with costs having risen significantly over the past few years, he would like to see the limit raised from \$50,000 per purchase to \$75,000. Gates made the motion to increase the Director's spending limit from \$50,000 to \$75,000 without the need for additional board consent. Rasnic seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Puckett stated that he would still notify the board of any large purchase, even with the increase on the spending limit.
- Also under New Business, Puckett stated that he and Brindle had recently met with LENOWISCO about a few potential projects, including an extension of the Sticklelyville system to include an additional 10-12 connections on Middle Wallens Creek and Rasnic Hollow. Other potential projects discussed included: an extension on St. Rt 421 near 421 Market; an extension of Baileytown; an extension of Frog Level; and an extension of Giles Hollow. Plans are underway for submitting funding applications for some of these potential projects.

Closed Session:

- The board did not go into closed session.

Adjourn:

- Rasnic made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jerrell, and passing unanimously.