

# Lee County Public Service Authority



## March 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- The Lee County Public Service Authority's Board of Directors conducted their regular monthly board meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at the PSA office in Jonesville, Virginia. Due to scheduling conflicts, the board cancelled their February regular meeting.
- 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, Harold Jerrell, and Greg Rasnic. Others participating were LCPSA Director Tracy Puckett, LCPSA Assistant Director Mike Brindle and Jon Broskey with The Lane Group. Board members Robert Horton and Roger Gates were unable to attend.

### ***Agenda:***

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

### ***Public Expression:***

- There was no Public Expression.

### ***Financial Report:***

- Jerrell made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Rasnic seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. During discussions, Carter asked about potential changes to the interest rate of the PSA's certificate of deposits. Puckett stated that the PSA has not been made aware of any changes, based on the agreed-to terms, but added that he would check with the bank to make sure.

### ***Previous Meeting Minutes:***

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

### **Director's Report:**

- The Director's report provided a brief overview of PSA operations and projects, highlighting the following during the Director's Status Report:
  - Maple Hill project – *Division # 2 – Pump Station punch list items have been satisfied, and the engineer is in the process of closing the project out with the funding agency. The Engineer is also looking at utilizing potential remaining funds to purchase an emergency generator, a zone master meter and increasing SCADA functionality.*
  - Blackwater/Flower Gap project – *DHCD recently awarded \$480,000 toward this project. The engineer and LENOWISCO will continue to work on additional funding for the project.*
  - Middle Wallens Creek/Rasnic Hollow Extension – *Brindle has worked with LENOWISCO and The Lane Group to gather information to get under contract for the funding. Engineer is working on final design and getting stream crossings. Project could begin late this year if approval for stream crossings comes in a timely manner, if not, project would begin early spring of next year.*
  - Phase III Hancock Co, TN/Lee Co, VA – *The engineer has completed plans for the Lee County PSA portion of this project and is currently working on stream crossing permits as well as easements, which have proven time-consuming.*
  - St. Charles Phase IV - *Engineer has received VDH approval. Waiting on VDOT, Railroad, JPA, and E&S permits.*
  - Ocoonita/Smyth-Miller Chapel Interconnection – *The engineer has received VDH, and E&S approvals and is currently working with these agencies.*
  - Western Lee Sewer – *A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3 to continue working on an agreement between the county, LMU and Lee Co PSA for the system.*
  - Dryden Wastewater Collapsed Line – *The PSA completed a temporary pump around on the Dryden Sewer system near the Hwy 58/Cave Springs intersection where a collapsed transmission line was discovered under the four-lane highway. PSA is actively working with DEQ on a permanent solution. Until then, the PSA will continue to work on the area to make sure proper flow continues while limiting the impact on the community.*
- Rasnic made a motion to accept the Director's Report as presented. Jerrell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **Old Business:**

- Under Old Business, Brindle updated the board concerning FEMA relief for damages incurred during Hurricane Helene. He explained that the PSA and FEMA are working on the final stages of the relief and expects to know the total of the relief effort soon. He commended Rebecca Crockett, who has worked closely with FEMA representatives on the matter.

### **New Business:**

- Under New Business, Brindle provided a detailed report on FENIX endpoint units the PSA is using on meters that are used to calculate wholesale water purchases. The units use cellular technology to send usage data to cellphones and computers, which saves

the PSA money from having to visit each meter for a reading, as well as identifying leaks more quickly, which also saves the PSA money, and in turn saves its customers money. Brindle added that the PSA is also looking at the possibility of making the units available to residential customers, for a nominal fee, that will allow customers to track their usage, be alerted to potential leaks, etc. He explained that a few customers, including Bryan Bales, are participating in a pilot program to gather information about the possibility of making the units available to all customers.

- Brindle also provided information to the board concerning a partnership with Virginia Tech that will provide internship opportunities at the PSA for students in the county. The paid internship starts in late May and runs through the first of August. The program will allow for one internship in office/administration and a second internship for water/wastewater operations.

### ***Closed Session:***

- The board entered into closed session under Personnel 2.2-3771 (a)(1) and Contracts 2.2-3771 (a)(29). Rasnic made the motion to go into closed session. Jerrell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
  - Jerrell made the motion to come out of closed session with Rasnic seconding the motion, which passed unanimously. Upon re-entering regular session, Chairman Carter addressed the board: Pursuant to § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended each member of the Board of Directors upon the Roll Call certifies that to the best of their knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters that were identified in the motion(s) by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Board of Directors. Any member of the Board of Directors who believes that there was a departure from the requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his or her judgment, has taken place. Are there any who believe a departure has taken place? Seeing none, if you agree that the matters heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting were pursuant only to the motion(s) by which the closed meeting was convened, please signify by saying aye or yes. He then performed roll call:
    - Greg Rasnic: *yes* - Roger Gates: *absent* - Harold Jerrell: *yes* - Robert Horton: *absent*
    - Bill Carter: *yes*

\* Following Closed Session, the board voted unanimously to allow the PSA to finalize an agreement with JP Kirk on damages to his property from an overflow of the sewer pump station located near the intersection of 421 and 606 that occurred during the torrential rain and regional flooding event that took place on February 15.

### ***Adjourn:***

- Rasnic made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jerrell, and passing unanimously. The board's next meeting will be Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 3 p.m.