

**MEETING MINUTES
CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY
AUGUST 11, 2014
CARROLL COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
BOARD MEETING ROOM
HILLSVILLE, VA**

CALLED TO ORDER

The Carroll County Public Service Authority held their regular scheduled meeting on Monday, August 11, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Carroll County Governmental Center Board Meeting Room. Members present included: Sam Dickson, Chairman, Jeanette Dalton, Vice Chairman, Thomas Littrell, and David Hutchins. James Light and William Payne were absent. Also present were Gary Larowe, Executive Director, and Dana Phillips, Assistant Director and Secretary/Treasurer of the Authority.

Chairman Dickson called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

MEETING MINUTES CORRECTION JULY 2014

Signature Page should be changed from Tom Littrell as chairman to W. S. "Sam" Dickson.

CITIZENS TIME

J.D. SMITH-I have been a resident of Carroll County, I live on Commonwealth Road. A couple of recent events have encouraged me to find out why there are no fire hydrants on our street. The first is I am a frequent driver down Coon Ridge Road and I am happy that, that is on. The second is I am investigating some new insurance and the insurance would be affected by the number of hydrants available. I am wondering what we can do to get some more on our street. The only one we have is at the end of the line quite a distance from my home. I have spoken to the engineering department and they verified this. I would like to suggest that the water authority bringing this line up to current specification. In 2002 on 82 Commonwealth Road had a building that was destroyed by a fire, water was brought in from a water wagon from Galax and a hydrant on Glendale. What do I do next?

JESSICA- There is only one hydrant on that line, we can look at adding one that is about 4,000 feet and there typically placed 1,000 feet apart. That is an older line. It is a six inch line that can handle another hydrant.

Mr. Dickson - We will see what we can do and be in touch.

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MIKE GOLDWASSER- IT WAS A GREAT RELIEF for taxpayers to get back the reimbursement funds which RD had demanded from PSA. Unfortunately, Chairman Dickson expressed his relief with a public statement not only riddled with errors but also highlighting his lack of understanding of transparency. Some examples:

Mr. Dickson: "Goldwasser (continues) to appear before the PSA...."

The truth: I have lived in Carroll County for more than forty years and have attended *one* PSA meeting. This is an unimportant error but it reflects an exaggerated sensitivity to criticism. Harry Truman, Mr. Dickson's fellow Democrat, said it best: "If you can't stand the heat then get out of the kitchen".

Mr. Dickson: "Goldwasser was in complete error when he claimed that the PSA tried to hide the repayment of funds by issuing multiple checks to USDA-RD.... PSA has been exceptionally open with this issue."

The truth: According to the PSA minutes (approved by Mr. Dickson) I stated that the only public evidence of the RD demand for reimbursement were four separate, unexplained construction fund checks. I was wrong in that these were four separate "transfers", not "checks" (I did not say that they were multiple checks to RD). *What is important is that after learning of the RD demand in August, 2013, the public was not informed until mid-November and then only because a local reporter learned of it. That is not being "exceptionally open"; it is being inexcusably closed.* Imagine a county employee somehow losing \$266,000 and not informing anyone for almost three months, and then only when it was exposed by the press.

Mr. Dickson: "(PSA) did not need the assistance of Mr. Goldwasser....since he is not part of the PSA and not even a paying user of County water or sewer."

The truth: This is wrong for three reasons:

--One, not being "part of the PSA" does not mean that a person cannot contribute to PSA discussions. Believe it or not, it is even possible that a non-PSA member might have a suggestion or an idea that the PSA has not considered. That is one reason for having a Citizens' time at PSA meetings.

--Two, while it is true that I get no water and sewer from PSA, I and all Carroll taxpayers pay a significant amount to the Authority even if we receive no direct services. The

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PSA may be intended to be a self-sustaining agency but it has been heavily subsidized for years, sometimes with close to a million dollars per year from general revenue (\$1.7 million in 2012). If paying PSA were required in order to speak at a meeting (it is not), then all Carroll taxpayers would be qualified. (It appears that debt plus interest payments for the PSA will increase from less than \$2 million in 2014 to well over \$5 million/year from 2019-2023; hopefully, user fees will increase accordingly or else the taxpayers' bill will increase substantially.)

--Three, instead of fearing criticism Mr. Dickson should be welcoming taxpayer involvement. That is the way an inclusive democracy works, valuing constituents and recognizing that valid ideas can come from outside of the Authority. Some ideas will be good, some will not, but listening should be part of the process.

Mr. Dickson: "(PSA) operate(s) in a very professional and upstanding manner."

The truth: Failing to inform the public when almost \$300,000 was demanded by RD was neither professional nor upstanding. And Mr. Dickson's comments in the PSA press release about the successful appeal were not professional or upstanding but were a clear violation of his code of ethics as a Supervisor: "Members shall refrain from....personal charges or verbal attacks upon the....public."

My comments at the PSA meeting had nothing to do with the merits of the Fancy Gap project--I am not familiar with the requirements of these projects. (Mr. Gregson, on the other hand, is extremely knowledgeable about these procedures and the Authority would be well-advised to listen to what he suggests and to provide answers to questions he has raised, as promised but not delivered.) What I criticized was the process: closed sessions for consultation with legal counsel but no open discussion in a PSA meeting. When Supervisors Hutchins and Littrell made campaign promises to appoint someone other than themselves to serve on the PSA, they acknowledged that inclusive government is more effective. But these promises were broken. Mr. Dickson spoke of "not needing the assistance" of taxpayers and suggested that only those receiving sewer and water from the County should participate. Control, the recurring theme of our county government: denying the right to speak during Citizen's time at a Board of Supervisor meeting; the County Administrator openly criticizing a Supervisor for not "being on the team" when the supervisor suggested that possible conflict of interest violations for the Administrator should be considered by an independent investigation rather than in a closed session of the Board; and now, a reimbursement demand that was confined to closed sessions until discovered by a newspaper reporter. This may be Mr. Dickson's understanding of

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transparency, but it looks more like an effort to control the dissemination of important information to the public. High school civics teaches that the fundamental principles of good government are integrity, honesty, openness, and a respect for the citizens it serves.

Mr. Dickson- Do, feel free if you have a good idea bring it to us. Most of that was directed to me. We received our money back and it was a successful effort, we got it back. Did anyone have a concern with the way we did it?

(ORDER)

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion by Dr.Littrell, seconded by Mr. Hutchins, and duly carried by the Authority does hereby approve the Consent Agenda for Sections A, B, and C. The July, 2014 minutes were approved and are on file in the PSA office. The claims are also on file in the PSA office.

Claims:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Check # 20320 -20338 End of July Claims in the amount of | \$ 23,278.93 |
| Check # 20339-20371 Beginning of August Claims in the amount of | \$159,980.92 |

Transfer for Claims:

CCPSA to Operating End of July Claims \$23,278.93
CCPSA to Operating for August Claims \$159,980.92
Operating to Cliffview \$16,000.00

Transfer for Reserves:

CCPSA to Debt Reserve \$8,614.50
CCPSA to Short Lived Asset Reserve \$10,652.83
CCPSA to O &M Reserve \$ 5,613.93
Fancy Gap Sewer to Short Lived Asset Reserve \$127,834.00
Fancy Gap Sewer to O & M \$49,937.00

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OLD BUSIESS

Oakland Possible Water Project meeting set for September 4, 2014 at 7 pm.

Radio Read Meters RFP, we are receiving quotes.

PROJECT UPDATES

I-77 Exit 1 Water - Construction

Contractor (Eastern Tank and Utility Services) has installed approximately 11,000 LF of 8" & 6" water line along Imogene Church Road, Old Pipers Gap Road, Flower Gap Road and side roads. Site work at the proposed tank site should begin this month.

Fancy Gap Water & Sewer - Construction Phase

Water -

Contract 2 - Water Pump Stations (Steve Martin's Trenching): All SCADA units have been installed and are operational. Contract can be closed out once all final close-out materials and Final Pay Request are submitted by the Contractor.

For the CCPSA's request to use remaining project contingency funds for water line extensions (Devo, Chris, Foggy Ridge) and a portable generator, plans/specs are being completed and will need to be approved by VDH and USDA-RD prior to bidding.

Sewer -

Contract 4 - Sewage Collection System (DLB): All gravity sewer line and force mains have been installed, and the system has been placed in service. Final cleanup Change Order and Final Pay Request have been processed. This Contract has been closed out.

Contract 5 - Sewage Pump Stations (E.C. Pace): All SCADA units have been installed and are operational. Contract can be closed out once all final close-out materials and Final Pay Request are submitted by the Contractor.

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Coon Ridge Water – Construction Phase

Contract 1 – Coon Ridge Road (C.W. Cauley & Son, Inc.): The Contractor has completed installation and pressure testing of all water lines included in the current contract and the Health Department has authorized the system to be placed in service. The Change Order for additional water line on Goodspur Road has been approved by USDA-RD and construction has started on that segment.

Contract 2 – Poplar Camp Road (Central Builders, Inc.): The Contractor has completed installation and pressure testing of all water lines included in the current contract and the Health Department has authorized the system to be placed in service. The Change Order for additional water line on Turman Drive is being prepared. USDA-RD required an update to the Project's PER and EA for this extension – and those have been completed. This segment includes some easements, which PSA staff is securing.

Cliffview Water – Design Phase

Draft survey plat for the tank site and utility easement has been completed – PSA staff corresponding with landowner to make sure all parties are in agreement. Plan revisions addressing VDOT comments have been completed prior to VDH regulatory submittal.

FUNDING APPLICATIONS

MRPDC Grant Applications – The PSA submitted multiple applications to MRPDC for small construction and design grants, but was not awarded any of the requests for 2014.

Cana Sewer - No engineering activity during this month.

Oakland Water Study – No engineering activity during this month.

Meadowbrook Water Improvements Study – The 2014 project funding application to VDH has been submitted.

Sheeptown Water Study – No engineering activity during this month.

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Mr. Hutchins- One comment to Mr. Goldwasser he made a statement that I had made a campaign promise that I would appoint someone else to the PSA. That is inaccurate, I said I would considerate it and that was the extent of what I said. I was repeatedly asked that. I said I would consider it and I did.

Mr. Dickson- I will not attempt to comment on the statements made. Most of them are not true anyways. Not worth me wasting my time to explain them. Our process was done the right way, thoughtfully safely and securely. And the end result was the return of the money which we do have the check right now. We didn't have to go through all that and waste all that money and time but we do it. And we did it the right way of getting back. When it works it works and I'm satisfied.

Mrs. Dalton- I am glad to see Coon Ridge water online now, there is some happy people out there and if their happy I'm happy. Glad to see that happen. I appreciate you and the other board members and staff for making that happen.

Dr. Littrell- I have a question that will show my lack of knowledge. When we have an area that is not fed by gravity sewer, is there any way that you can back feed say from the Commonwealth down to the pump station?

Kevin- Two pump stations

Mr. Smith- I would be in a favor of a sewer system in our area.

Mr. Dickson- Look at the cost of that project.

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ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Dr. Littrell and seconded by Mr. Hutchins and duly carried the Authority does hereby adjourn at 2:30p.m. until the next regular scheduled meeting on September 8, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in the Carroll County Governmental Center Board of Supervisors meeting room.

W. S. "Sam" Dickson, Chairman

Gary Larrowe, Executive Director

Dana Phillips, Sec./Treasurer, Assistant Director