

PIKE COUNTY WATER & SEWERAGE AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting
Minutes
July 20, 2011

The Pike County Water & Sewerage Authority held its regular monthly meeting on July 20, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. in the boardroom of the Authority's Building at 94 Gwynn Street, Zebulon, Georgia. Members present were: Tom Lacey, Chairman, presiding; Steve Brown and Tom Burnsed. Mark Whitley was not present.

Also present were: Donna Pearson, Office Administrator, Tammy Jarrett, Pike County Commissioner; Bill Sawyer, Pike County Manager; Todd Goolsby, Pike County Public Works Department; Kurt McCord, engineer, Carter and Sloope and Yvonne Langford to record the minutes.

Mr. Lacey called the meeting to order.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved on a motion by Mr. Burnsed and a second by Mr. Brown with Mr. Brown, Mr. Burnsed and Mr. Lacey voting for the motion.

MINUTES

Mr. Burnsed made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2011 meeting. The motion passed on a second by Mr. Brown with Mr. Brown, Mr. Burnsed and Mr. Lacey voting for the motion.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Board members reviewed the financial report noting nothing of significance.

MOTION

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the financial report. The motion passed on a second by Mr. Burnsed with Mr. Brown, Mr. Burnsed and Mr. Lacey voting for the motion.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES – BILL SAWYER – PIKE COUNTY MANAGER

Mr. Sawyer said a couple of months ago some of the Water Authority members heard that one of the commissioners read a letter he had sent to the attorney regarding the Water Authority and the Recreation Department. The Recreation Department is an entirely different issue. The Water Authority issue is that he is concerned that the Water Authority has been superseded by the EPD. He is a proponent of regional lead system. The University of Georgia is going to produce a study to, hopefully, address the regional issues of water. He would rather the Water Authority control water for all the cities. The University of Georgia is addressing that. He had a brochure that he reviewed regarding the water issues. There are 4,496 reservoirs in the State of which six are impressive according to the Corp. He feels Pike County, according to federal law, needs to control its own destiny. Federal Corp is more concerned about navigation and we should be worried about water supply. They have put so many mandates on us that the loan factors and the number of customers we have make us almost have to back up before we can take a step forward. He proposed that as soon as the documentation from the University of Georgia is received they have a joint meeting with the Pike County Commissioners and

the Water Authority and see where they need to go 5 years, 10 years, 15 years down the line. It helps to plan and to determine where we are. In the best interest of all the State of Georgia we need to control our own destiny. The only way to control our own destiny, according to the federal government, is to control the water supply. While he is a firm believer in regional issues he talked to Fayetteville, Fayette County and he thinks they have some concerns. We will see what the EPD Board does. He has some concern that they are going to let EPA and the Corp drive our destiny. He does not think they can do that because of the Corp federal statute that says they are supposed to be concerned with navigation and hydro power and recreation. Water supply is the last thing they are concerned with. When we get the study from the University of Georgia he will get a bunch of copies and distribute them. Give it to an engineer and see what those things bring us, then we have the general feeling and can decide if we like to be involved or if you would like to have that aspect. He would be happy to answer any questions.

Mr. Lacey asked how putting the Water Authority under the County is going to help the County financially.

Mr. Sawyer said he did not know if it would help the County financially and that was not his goal. What he is looking for is to increase the size of the Water Authority, make it a regional authority and have more intergovernmental agreements. He does not want Spalding County and Griffin controlling the water issues in Pike County. He feels the expertise in the future is going to be through regional authorities. He thinks we have to plan for the future. In planning for the future it will take care of the natural resources in the state. He does not want to be in a situation LaGrange was in, where in 2002 LaGrange spent \$37.2 million for a brand new water system, and low and behold they decided to pay for it by raising the rates for the citizens that took that water. What do you think happened? Water usage went down. It is always going to happen that way. What happened? They were left with that \$37 million. Try to amortize that. I think planning together, joint ownership of our thoughts make us all better.

Mr. Burnsed said what happened in LaGrange happened to us to a certain degree when we had all the sign-ups. In good faith everybody signed up but when the time came to connect they wanted their money back and the commissioners would not back the Authority on this issue or we would have enough customers.

Mr. Sawyer said he was making a strong statement and he has to verify that statement. He is not blaming and not looking to blame anybody. The commissioners – staff should have done a better job of helping you. In this instance I think everything you say is true and hopefully through the regional issues we can do a better job of this. Mr. Sawyer said I don't know if we need to control anything. The Water Authority was set-up legally. I am just a regional approach person. I want inter-transfers and inter-governmental agreements. While you have done a good job, you have done it by yourself. I think that is unacceptable.

Brown said all of it goes into control. If you want to go forward; are we going forward or backwards if you give up the appointed people, who receive no income? I know you are very sharp on all of this but do you really want the minute details of this on you? We sit here and agonize over a \$50 receipt and if you remove an authority and put it under your "hat" then you have to agonize over a \$50 receipt. Honestly, I really don't see why you want this thing. I honestly do not, because as far as growth is concerned you're limited

by funds. The funds for the system are spent with this second well. So you are not growing this without money. You can't get rid of it.

Mr. Sawyer said I don't know if anybody would want to get rid of it. Again, I look at a regional approach. I favor a regional approach with a regional board with additional members where we control our own destiny. I do not know that I wish to create a county water department. I don't think that is a direction that anybody would wish to go in. There is not enough time in the day now.

Mr. Burnsed said he is not beating up on the elected officials but it is so hard for an elected official, in certain instances, to make a decision based on what is best for the future versus what gets votes. With elected officials, commissioners it was not about what is best for the future it is about; they will vote me out of office if I do that. Sometimes you have to make tough decisions.

Mr. Brown said this is a frugal group all of which are volunteers. You have Tom that has been around water, basically from the start. Mark is an engineer. Mr. Brown is a business major and we are free. We are absolutely free. You have four people that are not elected reporting on things. Really and truly there are probably a million other things we need to be doing but we are here for the citizens 100%. There is not an angle. I have a well that is not changing anytime soon. You have a team here for free that agonizes over every little deal. We have been working on this well for the last two years which is future planning for water.

Mr. Sawyer said nobody wishes to get rid of the Board. I need to increase the Board and make it a regional board, in my mind. I do not wish for you or anybody else to leave. Don't miss the point. My point is I want to increase the Board. I have to get three commissioners to agree with me. He has to make sure that the model says and shows that it is in the best interest of this county to have a regional board. You have a partnership. Do you partnership with Lamar County? Do you partnership with Williamson? Do you partnership with Zebulon? Who do you partnership with on regional issues? At the end of the day you have to use an engineer and you have to use math and you have to put a pencil to it and say, is this where we need to get down the line or let's table it right now and come back and visit next year or the next year? Unfortunately when the University gets involved, they get four Philadelphia lawyers, 6 scientists and 3 geologists and I read the report and I have to come explain it to you. It is a duly elected authority by fiduciary rights. I do not wish to have authorities. I wish for us to plan for the future.

Discussion was held regarding working with the other cities in the county that have their own water systems. Mr. Sawyer said Meansville or Molena or anybody that has a permit to draw water are going to say they have a water authority. He does not want to infringe or infer that anything is wrong anywhere, I am simply saying that if the state is going to push me toward regionalism let's do it our way. Mr. Lacey said the Authority had always been open to it and have talked to mayors of the various cities about having a county-wide water system.

Mr. Sawyer expressed appreciation for being allowed to be present.

USDA PROJECT

Todd Goolsby gave a report on the work at the well site. The preparation work has been done so they can begin hauling the dirt. Kurt McCord discussed some issues that they are working through. The EPA is looking at projects that have been on the books for over five years and reviewing and recalling some of the funds. This project has been on the books for seven years. They contacted him and he advised that this project will be completed by the end of the year. It is not a threat at this time but he feels the Authority needs to keep this on a tight time line between now and the end of the year. Mr. McCord reviewed the work that will be done to complete the project. Discussion was held regarding the fencing that will be needed both permanently and on a temporary basis.

Mr. Lacey expressed appreciation to Mr. Goolsby for the work he is doing to get the project completed.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Ms. Pearson said there had been a couple of minor complaints that had been resolved. One was an odor issue and the other was a pressure issue.

ENGINEER

Mr. McCord said Terry Hatchett has acquired property from Mark McCullough. Mr. Hatchett is looking into the possibility of completing Phases III and IV and wants information regarding water from the Water Authority. He and Mr. Lacey are scheduled to meet with him today and give him an idea of what is required. He contacted Carter and Sloope regarding using them for engineering services. Carter and Sloope want to remain the engineers for the Water Authority and have encouraged Mr. Hatchett to use the firm that designed the plans for Phases I and II.

ADJOURN

Mr. Brown made a motion, seconded by Mr. Burnsed, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with Mr. Brown, Mr. Burnsed and Mr. Lacey voting for the motion.

Thomas M. Lacey – Chairman

Yvonne M. Langford - Recorder