

**MEETING MINUTES
CARROLL COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY
OCTOBER 15, 2018
CARROLL COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL CENTER
BOARD MEETING ROOM
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CALL TO ORDER

The Carroll County Public Service Authority held their regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the Carroll County Governmental Center Board Meeting Room. Members present included: Dr. Thomas Littrell, Chairman, Jeanette Dalton, Doug Winesett, Phillips McCraw, and Garry Jessup. Also present were Executive Director/PSA Engineer, Jessica Montgomery and Dana Phillips, Assistant Director, Secretary/Treasurer of the Authority. Vice Chairman, Keith Meredith was absent.

Dr. Littrell- I would like to welcome everyone to the meeting today. I hope that last week's excessive rain and flooding did not affect anybody. We are usually talking about water in the pipes not on the ground.

CITIZENS' TIME

Benny Robinson - Good afternoon, members of the board. For the record I am Benny Robinson. I have some concerns and questions I would like to get on record for this meeting this afternoon. I wish it was not contiguous, but I am afraid it may be. Mr. Chairman you being the senior member of the Board of Supervisors and the Chairman of the PSA, why did the notice for today's public hearing not get properly advertised in accordance of the governing rules of this County? Whose responsibility was it to have this crucial notice appear in the county designated media newspapers and placed on the county web site? Whose responsibility is it to insure that meeting notices are properly advertised? For example, this specific meeting today was on the calendar at the wrong time. It has often been noted in my career in my lifetime that if you take care of the little things, the big things seem to take care of themselves. Secondly Mr. Chairman, I have been coming to these meetings for a while now. All I hear is the overriding threat is the financial strapped position of this county. So, I am going to ask you, given the suspect condition of the county and the PSA, I believe it is fitting all PSA future projects be placed on hold until such time each project can be shown to be a financial self-supporting endeavor from the outset. Further, is there a goal and projected date in the PSA operating plan that the tax payers of Carroll County can be relieved of subsidizing these projects by merely a million dollars a calendar year? I suspect the PSA has become totally dependent upon this funding and it's solvency appears the PSA would expect to have that million dollar amount increased and take more away from the county general operating fund. It seems to me this modus-operandi of the PSA protocol is to rely on county tax payers to bail out any emergency or mismanagement that must stop. Now I want to ask you a question. Privately I have heard every one of you.

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express your concerns about this public hearing today and where you stand on repeal of this ordinance. So, I am going to ask you would you be willing to sign the petition that we have been circulating through three districts. Two districts we have not been able to get to. Would you be willing to sign our petition that you would support repealing this ordinance? Any takers? We got one.

Mr. McCraw- I will and I hear they do not want to totally repeal the whole thing, but I think it should be rewrote so they could not charge a non-user fee. We may have to leave the portion in where we collect the ones that use.

Benny Robinson- I thank you for your support. I have read, reread and reread that ordinance. It took a while for me to be able to get it. But repeal is the only thing works because it leaves the barn door wide open and I thank you.

Blaine Wright- Hello, my name is Blaine Wright. I am here representing Galax Pentecostal Holiness Church located in Carroll County. On behalf of the congregation and the pastor we thank this board for helping us solve our water pressure problem. You might remember this issue of no water pressure coming into our church. After spending \$6,000 dollars of our money to redo the pipes to our church and in our church, we still did not have adequate pressure. But now we have water pressure that is adequate for our needs only because of this board that took time to look into it and provide a solution to our problem. We thank you for your response to our problem. On behalf of my pastor and my church family we thank you very much.

William Payne- Good evening Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the board. I guess in December when I left you thought you would never see me again. But wrong. I have a couple of issues today I want to address. The questions will be directed toward Phillip McCraw since he is our representative in the Cana area. As you know for the last five years we had been working on Meadowbrook water project. The way it started, there were a couple of people that came to the PSA meeting expressing their concerns for water. We listened to them and heeded to what they said. We got more than the proper number of signups to start working with the project. A lot of work had been done over the last five years. A lot of efforts and dealing with the City of Mount Airy. The engineering reports and the last we were getting close to having this project funded. Another concern I have is we have a water agreement with Mount Airy, the agreement has already been signed. It was an excellent rate and enough water to serve Cana and not just Meadowbrook. It is good because the wells down there are getting in pretty bad shape. I think we only have four wells that are in operation now, they are getting old. Time will take care of

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Those too. My questions is, why Meadowbrook from what I understand in the last year, Phillip, nothing has been done on this project? No efforts have been made to get the ball rolling and get those people water over there. They are still very desperate for water at Meadowbrook. One couple has spent several thousand dollars for a well. I think you know who they are Shannon and Leesa Ayers. They still don't have decent water that they can use at their house. These people they are home owners, citizens, they are tax payers and they deserve water. We had been working on this project for five years. From what I understand the last year nothing has been done to try to get the project rolling. There has been a lot of work put into this project. Kevin Heath has spent a lot of time. The avenues we talked about getting it from Mount Airy, one coming up 52, one at Exit 1 come over Flower Gap or Oak Ridge over that way. It seems everything is just at a standstill. If there any reason that you can give me for this?

Mr. McCraw- Glad you give me the chance to response. You being on the PSA I am sure you are aware of the debt we have got. 26 plus million 40 years out this is our grandchildren we are putting in debt, you know? There are 42 customers over there. Did you see the figures they gave us to get the water over there to them?

Mr. Payne- I have.

Mr. McCraw- 1.7 was the cheapest they had. That is a lot of money. Where are you going to get that money back out of 42 customers? Let's put it on the ballot next November. See if the county wants more debt. We just went through a special called meeting the other week to put in for 2 million loans to get us through. That million dollars that the supervisor is putting in the PSA would go a long way. We probably would have not had to put in for that loan. I cannot see us putting the county tax payers through this we barely got through this year without a tax increase. All the offices cut their budgets. Sheriff really worked with us. We have got to look at the citizens of the county. We need to get this thing started out like it was supposed to be, self-supporting. When they talked mandatory water five supervisors got voted out. That is the people talking. They did not get the message. Well don't look like it; they said let's start a PSA. People cannot vote on them, they will be the scape goats for us. Put the PSA members on the ballot and see what happens. We put them in, supervisors, people cannot vote on them, so they can do as they please. Run the bill up and tally along, put the debt on the county. Supervisors have to get in the people's pocketbooks.

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Mr. Payne- What I saw the six years I was on the board; the PSA was very efficient, and I don't think they ran any bills up. I don't think it is a scape goat. I know there is cost getting a water system going. Like I said the people on Meadowbrook are citizens of Carroll County. They need water and it is the county's responsibility to try to get water over there to them somehow. Whatever it costs, whatever we have to do they are desperate for water. How would you like to get up every morning and run a glass of water, it be full of sulfur? That is not good. They cannot cook with it or wash their clothes. All they can do is wash their car. The work we had done on that for five year seems like it is just all in vain now because nothing been done in the last year. Also, the other work we did with Mount Airy on purchasing the water which was a good rate would have been great for Carroll County it could eliminate all these wells. The expense that is going to be associated with them. There is a whole lot there to look at. These people on Meadowbrook they need water.

Mr. McCraw- We lost two wells that were contaminated that had been pumping and they got sold. We did not find the source of contamination. Now that they are private property we do not have the right to go in and see what contaminated them. There is a well there at the house we been pumping out of all my life, still got water.

Mr. Payne- Your well at your house may be for four people. How many people does the Cana wells serve?

Mrs. Montgomery- Over 400.

Mr. Payne- 400 people that is the difference there. They do wear out. I see may time is about out. But Phillip as their representative you need to try to get them some water over there.

Mr. McCraw- Be glad to put it on the ballot. See if the people want the debt. You know?

Mr. Payne- Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Dr. McBride-Thank you Mr. Chairman permitting me some time to come speak with you today. Members thank you very much. I am here to represent the Fuller Center for Housing. That may be a term that is not quite understood. If I say Habitat for Humanity I think we all kind of understand that. Miller Fuller established Habitat for Humanity. When he left that organization, he established the Fuller Center for

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Housing. We have what we call a convent partner group in Carroll County with the Fuller Center for Housing. We have completed one house located in the Town of Hillsville. We have the second house under construction right now nearing completion at 742 Hanging Tree Road, which is just north of town. It has come time for us to ask about water, water is present in that area. We will have to install a septic system because sewer is not publicly accessible at that location. I have come today as you can see in the letter I have shared with the board members, I am asking if the PSA can help us in anyway with the fees for establishing water at that location. I would be happy to answer questions any of you have regarding Fuller Center for Housing.

Dr. Littrell- I helped drive some nails on the first one, when they were putting walls together at the VFW.

Dr. McBride- Actually, that is the house that is being constructed now. If you remember that day Dr. Littrell there was about 152 people showed up to build the walls of that house. We ran into a problem with the property and had to relinquish to find some others. We had a generous donation of lots. We purchased one lot and two others were donated. We are very thankful for that. We have been given the walls for our third house. A church down in Atlanta has donated the walls which will be built on Coon Ridge Road. Hopefully starting in the spring.

Dr. Littrell- The request is to help get water to this house. To remind PSA members we normally have a connection fee of \$1250.00. Of that 750.00 is for the meter and 500.00 is for the availability fee. If anyone would like to consider helping, get water to this home. We can certainly discuss it and make a motion.

Mr. Jessup- Do you have one in Hillsville now?

Dr. McBride- Yes

Mr. Jessup- What did the town do on the water?

Dr. McBride- They shared the cost of installing that meter at that location.

Mr. Jessup- Then does someone pay the water bill each month?

Dr. McBride- Yes, the owner will pay the water bill once they are in the house.

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Dr. McBride-Thank you for your time.

(ORDER)

Upon on a motion by Mr. Jessup, seconded by Mr. Winesett and duly carried the Authority does hereby approve to reduce the connection fee for The Fuller Center of Housing to \$625.00 for the house being constructed at 743 Hanging Tree Road.

Dr. Littrell- I hope that will help you out some.

Dr. McBride-Thank you.

(ORDER)

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mrs. Dalton seconded by Mr. Winesett, and duly carried the Authority does hereby approve the consent agenda, section A, B and C. The September 10, 2018 minutes were also approved, they are on file in the PSA office. Claims are as follows:

Claims

Check# 22939 New River Regional Water Authority \$283,553.00

Check# 22940-22948 Claims \$11,813.70

Check# 22949 AEP \$5,939.66

Check# 22950-22975 \$41,738.22

Check # 22976-23003 Claims \$158,251.96

Transfer for Claims

CCPSA to Operating September 18, 2018 \$283,553.00

CCPSA to Operating September 24, 2018 \$17,753.36

CCPSA to Operating September 27,2018 \$41,738.22

CCPSA to Operating October 15, 2018 \$158,251.96

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Transfer for Reserve

CCPSA to Debt Reserve \$8,918.62

Project Up-Dates

Cana/Meadowbrook Water – Planning Phase

PSA staff has requested engineering proposals for design of improvements to Well 8. The improvements are to be funded in part using the MRPDC grant funds (\$100,000). Proposals are due to be received on October 24th.

Coulson Church Road/Ridge Road – Design Phase

The Environmental Review document for the project has been approved by the funding agency (VDH), and the Public Notice and comment process has commenced. Plans for the proposed work have been submitted to and approved by VDH. Working on securing regulatory permits. Plans and specifications have been submitted to the funding agency for biddability review.

FUNDING APPLICATIONS

No active funding applications at this time.

PSA Update:

The PSA has approximately 200 miles of water lines, 50 miles of gravity sewer lines, 25 miles of force main sewer line, 795 fire hydrants, 12 sewer pump stations, 12 water storage tanks, several wells and several water booster pump stations. The PSA's Water systems are as follows: Cana, Exit 1, Fancy Gap, Regional, Tower Road and Hillcrest Estates. The PSA's Sewer systems are as follows: Fancy Gap, Woodlawn, Gladeville/Cranberry, Hillsville and Loves. All of this is operated and maintained with a staff of 14 people.

Total of 112 work orders in September (check pressure, check for leak, turn-off, turn-on, etc.)

Construction items completed –

6 new water connections

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- 1 new sewer connection
- Small Leaks repaired – Senior building, Blackstone and Sylvatus
- Helped with pavement repair on Airport Road
- Installed new Wythe County line bi-directional water meter
- Troubleshooting Austinville pump possible issue
- SCADA management
- Miss Utility Markings
- Mowing and general upkeep of properties
- Inventory updates weekly
- Prepare for possible effect of hurricanes

Maintenance items completed-

Loves WWTP repair work, Gladeville sewer pump station, Crooked Creek sewer pump station repair, repair hood springs on sewer pump station covers, replace transfer switch at Hills sewer pump station, work on electrical issues with DLB at Crooked Creek sewer pump station, general generator repairs, divert storm water runoff at DLB sewer pump station away from wet well, repair high water alarm at Exit 14 sewer pump station, Cana #2 well pump replacement, Cana #7 roof repair and Cana #1 well testing and troubleshooting.

Operations items completed-

Routine water flushing
Daily – sewer plant at Loves, check chemicals in water systems, wells, tanks, sewer pump stations, customer service, etc.

Office items completed-

Daily-customer service, deposits, review of payments, bills, invoices, scan checks, balance bank statements, close-out, etc.
Monthly-meter reading (office staff and field staff), print bills, print late-bills, prepare cut-off list, close-out, balance bank statements, etc.
Continue Rate Study (categorizing customers and producing possible alternatives)

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Other

Blue Ridge Crossroads Economic Development Authority (BRCEDA) project is complete and DLB is working on punchlist items now—down to 3 items at this point. This project added a section of gravity sewer along 58-Carrollton Pike from 4695 Carrollton Pike to 5055 Carrollton Pike – 5 new sewer customers. Also upsized the force main section to Galax from a 6-inch to an 8-inch line and upgraded all sewer pump stations to handle higher sewer flows. Water line was added from the end of the road in Wildwood to Old Goodspur Road to create a looped water system to supply Wildwood.

Dr. Littrell- Could you talk about the Hillsville Fire Department for a minute.

Mrs. Montgomery- Sure, I did meet with Mr. Jessup out on site. I think we have a plan here to look at where this leak may be. First, we need to rule out the water line in not leaking under the pavement. The propane tank will be moved soon. The tank gets moved then the PSA crew can come in there and put a valve see if it holds pressure underneath the pavement. If we find out the leak is not there we can move forward with getting prices that we need to do the stream crossing.

Dr. Littrell- As you know I was not here last month. So, I must go by the minutes, but Mr. Jessup you had mentioned people need water out Snake Creek.

Mr. Jessup- What do we need to do get it rolling.

Dr. Littrell- The first thing I think we need to try to find the service. Potential customers and we usually have community meetings.

Mr. Jessup- Oak Knoll and Sunny Vale are the road needing water.

Dr. Littrell- Do you know how many customers that would be.

Mr. Jessup- I do not.

Mrs. Montgomery- We need to go ahead and get sign ups. I will bring you some PSA user agreements. When you bring those in we can generate a map for you. That way we can all look at it together, so we can see who has signed up.

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Mr. Jessup- I was waiting to the Public Hearing to see about the user fees. Everywhere I go that is the first thing they ask me. That will be settled today.

Dr. Littrell- The Public Hearing is today.

AUTHORITY MEMBER'S TIME

Mr. Jessup- I am done.

Mr. McCraw- Talking about Meadowbrook. How many over there are really struggling for water, William?

Mr. Payne- It was well over 51% when we had sign ups.

Mr. McCraw- How many do not have a well? Understand thereS two and one of them moved to her dad's house.

Mr. Payne- She did move to her dad's house, but she still owns the property and needs the water.

Mr. McCraw- She still owns the property, but she does not rely on the water there. You know?

Mr. Payne- She still wants the water there.

Mr. McCraw- There are a lot of things I want but I have to look at the cost. You know? We got one over there that really needs it. We probably could dig them a well with the interest we would pay on the loan. You know?

Mr. Payne- They do not need a well full of sulfur.

Mr. McCraw- I understand they have a good well across the road. I hear them talking around the restaurant one day about his cheap water. He had water when the power was off. He did not have hot water, but he had water. It is cheap, but I tell you it is not cheap when we get this thing where it is supporting itself like it is supposed to county water is not going to be cheap. They are signing up because they hear it is cheap or they are getting pressure on them you need to sign this now or you won't be able to get it later. We need to tell them the truth. It is not going to be cheap.

Mr. Winesett- Good to see everyone come out and express their views and options. I understand there are differences. I hope we all can work our way through this. Dr. McBride hope we helped you out with

your situation. That's what we are here do to if we can. We need to figure out the best path forward and take it if we can.

Mrs. Dalton- I do not have anything.

Dr. Littrell- Sometimes we get some facts that are incorrect. Sometimes we get facts that are misunderstood. I have heard a million dollars mentioned a couple of times today. Jessica can help me out because I do not have my paper work with me but I want everyone to understand that it is not a million dollars' worth of PSA debt. If you look at it about ¾ of that \$750 thousand are IDA and county debt for Regional water, Wildwood and other projects we have done. \$250 thousand are projects we done before that that are self-sufficient. We do not put them in unless they pay for themselves. So, let's get the facts right. When we talk about this million dollars it is not all PSA debt. On another note, I am glad no one had any worse storm damage.

(ORDER)

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Jessup, Seconded by Mr. McCraw and duly carried the Authority does hereby adjourn at 3:37 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on November 19,2018 at 3:00 p. m. in the Carroll County Governmental Center Board of Supervisors Meeting Room.

Dr. Thomas Littrell, Chairman

Jessica Montgomery, Executive Director

Dana Phillips, Sec./Treasurer

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CALLED TO ORDER

The Carroll County Public Service Authority held a special called meeting on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Carroll County Governmental Center Board Meeting Room. The sole purpose of the meeting was to discuss water and sewer rates. Members present included: Dr. Thomas Littrell, Chairman, Keith Meredith, Vice Chairman, Jeanette Dalton, Doug Winesett, Phillip McCraw, and Garry Jessup. Also present were Executive Director/PSA Engineer, Jessica Montgomery and Dana Phillips, Secretary/Treasurer of the Authority.

Chairman Comments- On November 19th, 2018 at 6:00 pm, the Carroll County Board of Supervisors will meet to consider repealing the mandatory hook-up and non-user ordinance now in effect. Not everyone understands the ramifications of rescinding this ordinance. One potential problem is an unknown number of users might disconnect from the system.

In my opinion, if this ordinance is repealed, there will be multiple unintended consequences that will be felt for years to come in Carroll County. There will be no additional water or sewer systems constructed despite the dire need, economic development will be stifled and closer to home your water and sewer bills could skyrocket as a direct result of this decision of the Board of Supervisors. This outcome will rest solely on the shoulders of the Board's unwise action. The Public Service Authority will have no option other than to set higher rates to adequately meet the loan repayment schedule.

Chairman Dr. Littrell opened the meeting to the authority members to discuss their opinions and views on the water and sewer rates.

All authority members did have an opportunity to discuss their opinion on water and sewer rates.

(ORDER)

CHANGE MEETING TIME FOR THE NOVEMBER 19, 2018 MEETING

Upon a motion by Mr. Meredith, seconded by Mr. Winesett and duly carried the Authority does hereby change the meeting time for the November 19, 2018 to 8:30 p.m. This change was made so if the Board of Supervisors should vote to change the mandatory ordinance the Public Service Authority would be able to act accordingly if they so desire.

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(ORDER)

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Mr. Meredith, seconded by Mr. Winesett and duly carried the Authority does hereby adjourn at 7:19 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on November 19, 2018 at 8:30 p.m. in the Carroll County Governmental Center Board of Supervisors Meeting.

Dr. Thomas Littrell, Chairman

Jessica Montgomery, Executive Director

Dana Phillips, Sec./Treasurer