

Lee County Public Service Authority



December 3, 2024

Meeting Minutes

- The Lee County Public Service Authority's Board of Directors conducted their regular monthly board meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at the PSA office in Jonesville, Virginia. This meeting served as the board's regular November and December monthly meetings, with the board agreeing in October to move the November meeting, due to the holidays, to December to serve as the regular meeting for both months.
- 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, Robert Horton, Roger Gates, Harold Jerrell, and Greg Rasnic. Others participating were LCPSA Director Tracy Puckett, LCPSA Assistant Director Mike Brindle and Jon Broskey with The Lane Group.

Agenda:

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

Public Expression:

- During Public Expression, Presley Bledsoe addressed the board concerning the need for water at his home and other homes near him in the Blackwater community near the Lee County – Scott County line. Mr. Bledsoe, who lives on the Scott County side of the line, explained that he had spoken with the Scott Co PSA about getting water to his home, but had been unsuccessful. He stated he was hoping Lee County PSA could assist in getting much-needed service to his home, and others around him. Director Puckett explained that the PSA is currently working with Scott Co PSA on a joint project that will bring water to and by his property, to allow the Lee Co PSA to provide water service to some residents in the Flower Gap community. Puckett also recommended Mr. Bledsoe to reach out to Engineer Broskey concerning the specifics of the project.
- Also in attendance were Dr. Jason McConnell and David Laws from Lincoln Memorial University (LMU) to offer support for the Western Lee Sewer Project.

Financial Report:

- Gates made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented. Rasnic 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:

- 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 – *As of the December meeting, about one-third of residents have connected to meters and have started using the water system. Other residents are encouraged to come into the office to fill out their new customer form, so a meter can be installed, and service can begin. All Maple Hill residents that signed a user agreement for the system will receive their first bill in February, regardless of connection status.*
 - Blackwater/Flower Gap project – *The PSA is currently working with LENOWISCO on this project and an application was submitted to DHCD on June 12, 2024.*
 - Middle Wallens Creek/Rasnic Hollow Extension – *ARC has announced that they are providing funding for this project. A contract negotiations meeting will be held in January.*
 - Lead Service Line Inventory – *The first, initial phase of this project is now completed.*
- Gates made a motion to accept the Director's Report as presented. Rasnic seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Under Old Business, Brindle updated the board concerning the PSA's work with FEMA about damages incurred during Hurricane Helene. Brindle said the PSA has created a FEMA profile online and explained that meetings with VDEM and FEMA representatives are to take place in January as the PSA's application progresses.

New Business:

- Under New Business, Puckett updated the board on the Dryden sewer blockage issue. The PSA has spent hundreds on man-hours and exhausted all resources made available to them to try to clear the blockage of the wastewater transmission line located near the intersection of Highway 58 and Cave Springs Rd. This blockage proved far more difficult than anything the PSA has encountered. Wise Co PSA even sent a crew and a crawler camera to try to assist us with discovering the cause of the blockage and a plan to clear it. The PSA even worked with a contractor, who came on site with a large vacuum truck and a large jetter in an attempt to clear the blockage, again using all available resources available. Despite all efforts, a final look via camera confirmed the PSA's biggest concern, that the pipe is collapsing under the 4-lane highway. During this

entire event, Lee County PSA has kept in contact with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) with the agency being very supportive in the efforts to try to get the flow resumed. Puckett stated that DEQ has been very supportive the entire time. The PSA has purchased pipe to create a temporary fix to the problem, which will allow the PSA "pump around" the collapsed pipe. The PSA and Broskey are currently working with DEQ on some potential funding for a permanent solution. Puckett added that the PSA takes problems such as this one very seriously and works hard to try to resolve them as quickly and as safely as possible. He said the PSA has truly exhausted all its resources trying to get a resolution for the safety and well-being of the Dryden community.

-In other New Business, Brindle reported to the board that the Virginia Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water recently conducted sanitary inspections for the authority's Blue Springs and KVS plants, as well as distribution systems, with the regulatory agency offering high praise to the PSA.

Closed Session:

- The board entered into closed session under Personnel 2.2-3771 (a)(1) and Contracts 2.2-3771 (a)(29). Gates made the motion to go into closed session. Horton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
 - Rasnic made the motion to come out of closed session with Jerrell 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: yes
 - Harold Jerrell: yes
 - Robert Horton: yes
 - Bill Carter: yes

Adjourn:

- Gates made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rasnic, and passing unanimously. The board's next meeting will be Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 3 p.m.