

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY, HELD ON THE 4th DAY OF JANUARY 2016, 7:00 P.M., MULTI PURPOSE ROOM #2, MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

PRESENT:	William Brown	-Chair
	Christopher Tuck	-Vice Chair
	Mary Biggs	-Secretary-Treasurer
	Annette Perkins	-Member
	Gary Creed	-Member
	Todd King	-Member
	Robert C. Fronk	-PSA Director
	Dawn Baker	-PSA Board Secretary
	Craig Meadows	-County Administrator
	Marty McMahon	-County Attorney
	April DeMotts	-District G Supervisor
	Darrell Sheppard	-District E Supervisor
ABSENT:	Matthew Gabriele	-Member

CALL TO ORDER

Chair William Brown called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum was present.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by William Brown, seconded by Todd King, and carried; IT WAS RESOLVED, that the Public Service Authority hereby approves the Consent Agenda, dated November 2, 2015.

The vote on the foregoing motion is as follows:

AYE

NAY

Mary Biggs
William Brown
Christopher Tuck
Todd King
Gary Creed
Annette Perkins

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial report for period ending December 31, 2015 was presented for review and discussion.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Monthly Activities Report

The December 2015 report is attached for review.

2. Fire Hydrant Flow Testing

Our contractor performed fire hydrant flow testing and maintenance on 341 fire hydrants during the summer/fall of 2015. A spreadsheet listing the pressure and flow for all fire hydrants was compiled and sent to the Emergency Services Coordinator for distribution to the appropriate fire departments. This work also identified fire hydrant deficiencies outside the scope of the contractor's work. The list of the deficiencies have been turned over to the PSA maintenance crew for correction.

3. Additional Office in Government Center

The PSA was assigned an additional office space in the Government Center. This third office will allow the senior PSA staff to be based in the same location which will improve communications and coordination.

4. Twelve Ton Equipment Trailer

On December 3, 2015, we received the 12 Ton Equipment Trailer that was included in the FY16 budget. This is the second trailer of this type owned by the PSA. It will be used to transport any of our 3 rubber-tire backhoes along with other equipment / materials. 2016 Jeep Compass arrived today.

5. Maintenance Supervisor Hire

The recently vacated Maintenance Supervisor position was filled by promotion of Wastewater Crew Leader Greg Webb. The maintenance and wastewater crews will be combined under Greg. This combination of the crews will allow greater flexibility in completing work tasks, promote cross-training and allow all employees the potential to multiple water and/or wastewater licenses.

6. Utility Operator Vacancies

An advertisement for a Utility Operator was placed in the Roanoke Times NRV Section October 25 and 28, 2015. Interviews with five candidates were held November 5, 2015. The top candidate has hired and worked for two weeks before resigning to accept another position. The second candidate had accepted employment elsewhere. The third candidate initially accepted the position, but backed out an hour before taking the mandatory drug & alcohol test. The fourth candidate worked for one day and resigned at the start of the second day. The fifth candidate was not qualified.

7. Water Breaks / Pipe Failures at Elliston Lafayette Elementary School

There have now been nine water main breaks on the 8" PVC pipe main serving the new Elliston-Lafayette Elementary School from October 2012 to December 8, 2015 (map of break locations attached). The cost per repair was about \$2,500 and the total cost to date including the December 8, 2015 break is \$20,348. The section of pipeline operated by the PSA was placed into service November 27, 2009 and is about 1,000 feet long with approximately 50 pipe joints (20' pipe sections). Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) operates two sections of 8" PVC pipelines of about 1,350 feet total at this location and to our knowledge, has not had a single break.

Damaged pipe joint sections from several of breaks were sent to the pipe manufacturer for evaluation. The pipe manufacturer's reports stated the pipe failures were the result of improper installation and additional pipe joints are "susceptible to similar stress induced failures." A later inquiry was sent to the pipe manufacturer in response to the pipeline subcontractor claim that the pipe failures were due to over-compaction. The manufacturer's response to the subcontractor claim stated "National has seen no evidence that would indicate to use (us) that the failure of these joints are due to any other cause than severe over-insertion of the integral bell."

We presented this issue to MCPS staff in September 2014 who in turn contacted the general contractor, Branch & Associates claiming a "Latent Defect" in the water line installation. The contractual relationship and responsibility for the waterline construction is between the general contractor and MCPS. The PSA took over operation of the waterline based upon certifications and warranties from MCPS that the pipeline was properly installed.

During the August 3, and September 8, 2015 PSA Meetings, the PSA Director was instructed to send letters to senior MCPS staff seeking reimbursement of \$17,814.70 for repairs of the water main breaks to that date. In the first response from MCPS dated September 21, 2015, they indicated MCPS has "accepted your recent handoff for the school system to deal directly with Branch and Associates, Inc..." and "we will continue to help push for an immediate resolution that will ultimately serve to compensate the Montgomery County PSA for your cost to repair the water main." An additional response dated September 25, 2015 from Brenda Blackburn stated "MCPS is a contributing member of PSA membership and as such shares with the financial liabilities of the organization." In addition, she indicated reimbursement to the PSA would only be provided if compensation is received through negotiations with the contractor.

During the November 2, 2015 PSA Meeting, the County Attorney indicated he was in communication with attorneys from several of the parties and expected some resolution, so this issue was continued.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS' REPORT

Member King- No Report
Member Perkins- No Report
Member Creed – No Report
Member Biggs- No Report
Member Tuck - No Report
Member Brown - No Report

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned this meeting to the next meeting scheduled for February 2, 2016.

ATTEST: _____
SECRETARY/TREASURER