

Lee County Utilities Authority

GEORGE WALLS
Chairman
Victor Stubbs
Vice-Chairman
Authority Members:
Johnny Barthlein
Art Ford
Levent Gokcen
Robert (Bob) Usry
Amy Addison

905 US Hwy 19 S
Leesburg, GA 31763
Tel: (229) 759-6056
Fax: (229) 759-3319

CHRIS BOSWELL
General Manager
Tricia Holmes
Director of Administrative Operations
Ira Houston
Director of Field Operations

Regular Scheduled Meeting
6:00 P.M. Thursday, February 16, 2023
Page Tharp Governmental Building
Opal Cannon Auditorium
102 Starksville Avenue North
Leesburg, Georgia

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Lee County Utilities Authority met for their regular scheduled meeting on February 16, 2023. The meeting was held in the Opal Cannon Auditorium of the Page Tharp Governmental building in Leesburg, Georgia. Those present were Chairman George Walls, Board members Art Ford, Victor Stubbs, Robert (Bob) Usry, Amy Addison, and Johnny Barthlein. Also present were Chris Boswell, General Manager and Tricia Holmes, Director of Administrative Operations, Kelvin Seagraves, Hofstadter and Associates. Those not present were Levent Gokcen. Chairman George Walls called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. INVOCATION

Chris Boswell, General Manager, led the invocation.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of January 19, 2023 regular scheduled meeting minutes

Victor Stubbs made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2023 meeting with a noted change of the meeting start time from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Johnny Barthlein seconded the motion. Voting yea were Art Ford, Johnny Barthlein, Amy Addison, Robert (Bob) Usry, and Victor Stubbs with no opposing votes. Motion passed.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Chairman

Johnny Barthlein made a motion to nominate George Walls as Chairman for three (3) years. Art Ford seconded the motion. Voting yea were Art Ford, Johnny Barthlein, Amy Addison, Robert (Bob) Usry, and Victor Stubbs with no opposing votes. Motion passed.

B. Chairman Appointment of Members to Budget Committee

Chairman George Walls appointed Amy Addison, Art Ford and Robert (Bob) Usry to the Budget Committee and Johnny Barthlein, Art Ford, and Victor Stubbs to the Personnel Committee.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Investment of Authority Funds

Robert (Bucky) Leach, LPL Financial Advisor with Renasant Financial Services, joined the meeting via speakerphone. He explained that we issued bond with interest rate of 2.75 % in December 2022 and the current rates will allow the Authority to invest on short term bases during the time of project construction and make approximately 4 % of 1-2 years in a staggered ladder layout. All investments of Authority funds are required to be securities via FDIC US Treasuries.

Chris Boswell recommended that the bond funds held at US Bank be transferred to LPL for investment and for the Authority to allow LPL to set investment to mature on a ladder due date. He recommended that \$400,000 remain at US bank for disbursement for upcoming projects.

Johnny Barthlein made a motion to move \$8,750,000 from US Bank to LPL for investment with laddering maturate dates and that \$1.4 million with Colony Bank be transferred to Certificate of Deposits with a current rate of 4.25% return. Bob Usry seconded the motion. Voting yea were Art Ford, Johnny Barthlein, Amy Addison, Robert (Bob) Usry, and Victor Stubbs with no opposing votes. Motion passed.

B. Kinchafoonee Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Project Status

Kelvin Seagraves, of Hofstadter and Associates, gave an update that the project plans would be ready by the middle of March. Total project completion estimated within 6-9 months after bidding.

No Action

C. A-1 American Rescue Act

The referenced subject was discussed during the Lee County BOC meeting February 14, 2023. After the BOC meeting, the Authority Board met on February 16, 2023 to discuss the \$1,119,057.77 funds and why/how those funds should be spent on needed water and sewer projects. A lengthy discussion was held about the necessity of a new water well, wastewater treatment plant repairs, U.S. Hwy 19 sewer project, and the Lee Medical Hospital water/sewer. Cost, funding, and Authority debt were also discussed.

Johnny Barthlein made a motion to have Authority General Manager draft/send memo to Lee County BOC requesting the use of the \$1,119,057.77 to pay for Lee Medical Hospital water and sewer needs. Bob Usry seconded the motion. Voting yea were Art Ford, Johnny Barthlein, Amy Addison, Robert (Bob) Usry, and Victor Stubbs with no opposing votes. Motion passed.

6. PUBLIC PERIOD TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Request for 300 feet of sewer lines be installed between Boaters World and the closed auto parts building along US 19, this area backs up to Saxton Place. Policy states developer pays for extension. Mary Cotton, from Coldwell Banker Walden Kirkland realtor, requested for 300 feet of sewer to cover the requested property. Mr. Boswell stated this project would cost \$50-\$60 thousand (estimate).

After a brief discussion, the Board stated that the policy stands.

No Action Taken

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

8. PAYMENT OF BILLS

WWTP IMPROVEMENT

To Be Paid with 2022 Bond Proceeds

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hofstadter & Associates, Inc. (Inv306535501) \$	35,889.00

Total REQUESTED Payments \$35,889.00

9. ADJOURNMENT

Johnny Barthlein made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 P.M. Victor Stubbs seconded the motion. Voting yea were Art Ford, Johnny Barthlein, Amy Addison, Robert (Bob) Usry, and Victor Stubbs with no opposing votes. Motion passed.



Tricia Holmes, Secretary/Treasurer

Adopted March 16, 2023