

Floyd-Floyd County PSA
Water/Wastewater Board Meeting
January 9, 2025

Chairperson Linda DeVito called Thursday, January 9, 2025, board meeting of the Floyd-Floyd County PSA to order at 5:35pm. In attendance was Director Will Griffin, Director Bruce Turner, Director Trent Cox, Director Rick Parrish, and Director Kalinda Bechtold. Vice Chairman Mike Maslaney participated via zoom stating he was in a remote location at his home in Atlanta. The PSA board approved his participation through zoom. Others in attendance were Administrative Asst. Teresa Conner, Superintendent Patrick Nicola, Attorney Janet Murrell and Engineer Matt Gross.

Chairperson Linda DeVito asked everyone to look over the minutes if they had not already and entertained a motion to approve. Director Kalinda Bechtold made a motion, seconded by Director Will Griffin to approve the December 2024 minutes. Roll call of members replying yes motion passed.

Administrative Asst. Teresa Conner went over the account payables. There was a question about the Industrial Process invoice. Superintendent Patrick Nicola stated that they were 10+ years old plus the chlorine leak at the plant was really bad and was best to replace them. Director Trent Cox asked about the expense to J.C. Hylton for H & V did we charge them for the connection availability fee. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said that we did, it was the cost for H&V, plus our cost. Chairperson Linda DeVito asked was that billed to them. Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner said yes, we paid for it, but the reimbursement will be in January. Chairperson Linda DeVito entertained a motion to approve the January acct payables. Director Will Griffin made a motion, seconded by Director Trent Cox to approve the December 2024 account payables. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.

Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner went over Financials for December 2024. We are still on track where we should be with the rate increase with \$105k for the month. Chairperson Linda DeVito entertained a motion to approve the December 2024 financials. Director Kalinda Bechtold made a motion, seconded by Director Trent Cox to approve the December 2024 financials. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.

Chairperson Linda DeVito wanted to command our staff and Superintendent Patrick Nicola to get all the water breaks that have happened fixed, especially the one on Christiansburg Pike. Once we put a statement out on FB it calmed people down. Administrative Asst Teresa Conner sent over a short statement to Chairperson Linda DeVito who then posted it and turned comments off. Director Kalinda Bechtold said there were some not so pleasant things said since it was not posted on the Floyd Government page, and it was time that the PSA looked into getting a Facebook page. If you do not have power, you won't get the call if you have a land line. Director Bruce Turner suggested that the PSA put on voicemail we are aware of the problem, and we are working on it so if anyone called the office they would know. Director Rick Parrish said we could check with Citizens and see if they have an alternate message we could sign up for. Chairperson Linda DeVito said we would look into that. Director Will Griffin said to check with Andrew at the Town and see who all is on the list with them for alerts and he could send over their list that we could add to ours. Chairperson Linda DeVito said she would talk with Danny about Everbridge.

Attorney Report: Nothing to report.

Superintendent Report:

Mary Gardner Easement

After our initial conversation, the first week of Oct, Mrs. Garder agreed to sign an easement allowing us to go through her property with the 221-water line extension. However, since that time she has changed her mind. She now feels long term it is in her best interest to have the water line run up the side of the road in the VDOT right of way instead of going through her property. I explained the PSA's safety concerns of our contractor working in the corner of 221 but she feels that there is enough room by digging back into the bank for the crew to go around the corner safely.

Surveying up 221 to Nira the initial cost was \$8500, now it will be an additional \$5k to make the change order so we are losing \$5k and time. We waited until we got verbal agreement from her before we started the easements etc. We will have to move forward with 221 in the VDOT right-of-way.

Mary Gardner Lateral Break

Mrs. Gardner was hoping to attend the board meeting but is out of town so asked me to discuss the responsibility for the lateral repair in the parking lot between her building and Napa. She does not dispute that her line was cracked but feels it was the PSAs backup in the main that put stress on her lateral causing the crack in the terracotta pipe. She feels if the sewer did not back up causing pressure in the sewer line that her lateral ran into, it would not have damaged the pipe to begin with and therefore would not have made it.

necessary to dig up her parking lot to make a repair. She feels the PSA should be responsible for some, if not all the repair cost. (copy of bill attached)

Director Trent Cox asked if she had a cleanout. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said no it was all underground.

Director Trent Cox said from the Main that it went all the way back into her house there is no cleanout.

Superintendent Patrick Nicola said the backup was in our sewer line and we are not sure how the laterals are our line backed up under the road. Director Trent Cox asked if there was a relief point. No there is not. Engineer Matt Gross said in his opinion that in order for that pipe to crack under pressure it would have backed up in her toilets, sink, it would have went back to the carwash drain etc. before in the road. Chairperson Linda DeVito said she had thought about this. She is wondering if we should have our Engineer write a letter when we send out the bill again. What does the board feel about this? Director Trent Cox asked what she wanted. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said either all or some of the bill should fall back on us because our line backing up caused her issue. She does not deny that it was cracked already. The bill is \$3550 plus now we have to pay another \$5k because she would not sign the easement.

Director Trent Cox asked if this included paving. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said no it does not, she made a statement that she wanted to repave her parking lot soon, which is why we were trying to do this while Justin was already working in that area. Chairperson Linda DeVito asked did anyone else have any comments on this. Vice Chairman Mike Maslaney said he does not think we should pay it, sets the wrong precedent. It will be on the contractor to get the money from her for the invoice unfortunately. Chairperson Linda DeVito asked Director Bruce Turner his thoughts. He said we need to listen to the experts on this and it should not be paid by the PSA.

Water Main Break

On Jan 6 at approximately 7pm we received notification of a water break on Christiansburg Pike at the entrance to Well 6. We responded immediately and had the leak valved off by 7:30pm at which time we estimated losing 110,000 gal of water but maintained pressure in the system. We may have been able to get it cut off sooner, but we had no power to the school tank, so we were unaware of the level drop. It appeared as if something hit the valve box causing a break in the line at the valve connection over to the hydromax. We replaced the valve, pipe and hydromax, having it back online about 11pm. During this time, we also had over 170 Mission's alarm notification due to power loss issues in Floyd. The tank was full by 7am.

Superintendent Patrick Nicola said it looks like it got hit, no way of proving it, it's one that we just put in. All the evidence points to a snowplow. The biggest part of the break was at the top and is about 2 ft off the road. The valve box broke at the bottom so even if the line broke it should not have the valve box. We did bury the valve a couple of inches. We didn't know this happened because we didn't have power, and the school tank is how we are notified. School tank is what turns on Well 6 on but no power so it couldn't. The County did purchase a generator with 3 automatic transfer switches, and it should be about March. It will be the PSA responsibility to install the transfer switches, but the County did buy them along with generator. Kevin Sowers will have it stored at the fire department or somewhere for us to access if needed. We are still working on getting more generators through FEMA. There are some customers on the school tank so I sent Kevin the list of people with meter numbers & account numbers so it should get flagged with AEP when power goes out.

Updates/Notes:

- ◆ The Town has donated the PSA, a 1999 dodge truck with a dump bed. Jon Belcher has it and is fixing the steering issues.
- ◆ Projects Progress Report (see engineering report)
- ◆ Attached are Water Loss and Sewer flow I & I Percentage's. Director Trent Cox asked how he gets the sewer flow. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said the difference between water production and the bill. We have an f-fluent meter that number goes in there.

If you look at page 5 in the regulations, this is the way we bill with a master meter. According to this it says under water regs, each unit must be serviced with a separate meter for all new structures. In cases where separate meters have not been installed per unit, each unit will be required to pay the minimum water rate. When consumption is over the minimum rate, the total water consumption will be divided by the number of units on the water meter and each unit will be billed for the water consumption. For instance, water meters are read at the end of the month and consumption was 10,000 gallons. There are two units using this one meter, so the consumption of 10,000 gallons is divided by two (2) giving each unit a water consumption of 5,000 gallons for the month. Each unit will then be billed for their consumption at rates that are established by the Authority at that time. When each unit can have a separate meter without any difficulty, they will be required to do so and the sewer regs state all apartment houses, or any structures containing seven or more residential or business units, shall be served by one master meter and billed to the premises owner (owner-customer) for the number of residential and/or non-residential units in the complex or building at the minimum rate for each unit regardless of occupancy plus any excess used over and above the minimum rate. (As adopted September 18, 1986.)

As an example of now an example is all these apartment buildings we bill commercially at the minimum rate and then by the thousand gallons. Our regs say anything with multi-units should be billed individually, so each place should have the minimum rate and then anything over the 1000 be billed, so we are losing money. Chairperson Linda DeVito said it would be anything built before 1980 which you can find at the courthouse. We need to look into this by finding out when more information on when was built, how many apartments in the buildings etc. and revisit.

Engineer Reports:

1. **VDH Funding Water System Improvement Projects**

Contractor has installed most of the line shy of the NIRA extension waterline on Route 221.

The NAPA extension has been drafted and sent to VDOT for approval. It is our understanding that the easement process failed, and the PSA does not wish to condemn the land. As a result, the surveyors have gone back out to survey the inside of the Route 221 curve for the NIRA extension.

The Contractor has begun the installation of the gravity sewer to the well 6 filter building.

2. **Nursing Home Pump Station Replacement**

The Gorman Rupp submittals have been process and sent back for manufacturing.

3. **Additional Well Drilling (No Change)**

4. **Slaughters Pump Station (No Change)**

5. **NAPA Sewer Issues**

The survey and design are done for the repair/replacement. The MOT plan is in review now and will be submitted to VDOT for approval as soon as possible.

GIS the technology can be adapted to tell you what valves to turn off, who to contact etc. It is not currently able to do that but potentially in future. Still trying to get a cost on this.

Matt Gross asked Chairperson Linda DeVito what she wanted under the grant part she requested in his report. Chairperson Linda DeVito said updating where we are, how much work has been done for Floyd, what other grants are out there etc.

Chairperson Linda DeVito asked if there was any further business to discuss. There was no further business, so a motion was entertained to adjourn. Director Rick Parrish made a motion, seconded by Director Bruce Turner to adjourn, roll call of everyone saying yes, motion passed.