

Floyd-Floyd County PSA
Water/Wastewater Board Meeting
April 09, 2025

Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch called the Wednesday April 09, 2025, board meeting of the Floyd-Floyd County PSA to order at 5:39pm. In attendance was Director Will Griffin, Director Bruce Turner, Director Trent Cox, Director Kalinda Bechtold and Director Rick Parrish. Others in attendance were Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner, Superintendent Patrick Nicola, Attorney Janet Murrell and Engineer Matt Gross.

Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked everyone to take a look over the March minutes and entertained a motion to approve. Director Will Griffin made a motion, seconded by Director Kalinda Bechtold to approve March 2025 minutes. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.

Treasurers Report.

Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner went over the March Account Payables. We use Safeguard who prints our water bill postcards, draft checks, payroll, and water checking accounts, delinquents, and our envelopes. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked me to bring her a sample of them so that she could look around and see if she finds somewhere that is more local and costs less. Director Trent Cox made a motion, seconded by Director Rick Parrish to approve the March 2025 account payables. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.

Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner reviewed the March Financials. Director Trent Cox was asking why so much more income. Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner said the income shows VDH money that we get in and then we pay it right back out, but we do not have a line item for an expense for VDH. The LSI money we got the income and then we had an expense account for it. I will need to set up an expense account for the VDH money so that there is an income and expense for it.

Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner went over the Delinquent accounts. On the 25th you are passed due which is then on the Delinquent list. If I run this report next week after cutoffs that number would be less. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked if most people wait until the day before or day of cutoffs to pay. Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner said most people pay before that day. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked to run report the Monday before the board meeting to see what it shows as well as the 25th date.

Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner said in your packet you have a proposed budget for Fy 25/26. We had a budget finance meeting a couple of weeks ago that consisted of myself, Patrick, Mike, Linda and Will. There is a rate sheet in there as the finance committee proposes a 5% rate increase. This would put Residential customers at a minimum of \$78.05 and Commercial

customers at a minimum of \$136.28. The 5% rate increase reflects in the 12month rolling actuals columns so 5% of that is the \$479,718 and the \$745,749. On salaries we made a 5% increase except for the Superintendents position. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked Director Will Griffin if he would like to comment on any of the proposed budgets. Director Will Griffin said part of the reason behind the rate increase is because for the last 4-5 years we have found ourselves scraping for money and having to go to the Town or County asking for support, hopefully to eliminate that this will help with that. Salaries we looked at, we have a solid team, and we need to do what we can to keep them as a team. Superintendent Patrick Nicola has done an excellent job, and we do not want anyone to leave. Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner said that Superintendent Patrick Nicola did call around and see what everyone else was doing and they are doing 5% salary increase. Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner said that since the approval of the 2024/2025 Budget employees have received multiple licenses so that \$325k number is more now. We have an employee who is making less than surrounding places for a new hire without a license. We propose giving him the base pay as a salary adjustment, plus adding any license that he has earned and then 5% of that. Expenses we went through and looked at what looks to be increasing, we added a line item for generator maintenance and repair as well as Equipment Maintenance and Repair. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked if we were maintaining the generators and Superintendent Patrick Nicola said no, we would not be it would be someone like Fidelity. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said we should try and get the best rate for all the generators in the County (PSA, County etc.) within our FEMA grant we are trying to get the High School a decent generator since it is going to be a shelter when power is out. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said the BOS has made a resolution to approve using Cardinal Press as newspaper of record. We have asked the Judge in Floyd to approve of going to online advertising with the Cardinal news. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked Attorney Janet Murrell to look into the PSA using the Cardinal news. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked about our CDS and Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner said she always checks with the bank to see what the interest rate is, and we are at 4% on them. Director Trent Cox said the only concern he has with the budget is that with the rate increase it is only giving us \$30k more so in future years salaries will be hard to continue to go up unless we keep raising rates. Director Will Griffin said we discussed that and the new normal will be 5% every year. Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner said you also have to look at the fact we did not include new connections or grant money because they are unknown. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said let us approve the March financials. Director Bruce Turner made a motion, seconded by Director Kalinda Bechtold to approve the March 2025 Financials. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.

Director Bruce Turner made a motion, seconded by Director Rick Parrish to approve the proposed 2025/2026 budget that includes a 5% rate increase. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.

Director Kalinda Bechtold made a motion, seconded by Director Trent Cox, to advertise a rate increase and to hold a public hearing at the May Board meeting. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.

Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said she wanted to do something a little different. Instead of coming out of a report that Superintendent Patrick Nicola would give if there was something that is warranted to have its own action item, I want to pull that out to discuss. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said if you look at the 2nd page in his report this is at Oakhill. This used to be a collection box before the sewer was brought up and now there is just this one customer that it dumps in. The sewer goes into this box, down into this hole, through the dirt and then into our sewer system. It is terracotta and I am sure it broke down in the line as well. This customer is having issues with it backing up, the tree is growing massive amounts of roots. They called roto-rooters out there, went in replaced a piece of terracotta before this to get them flowing again and they said they could not get through this box. The customer asked if there was anything we could do so we told them we would come see if we could camera it. This is their lateral, but we could camera it enough to where we got under the road and that is where the blockage is, which is historically from what I have gathered is we replace the line under the road if its bad. The question is what we do and how do we go about it? I have some quotes one is from Justin which is from the manhole to the side of the road with a clean out and its \$6300. Also got him to quote what it cost the homeowner to connect from the cleanout to the cleanout that roto rooter put in for them and its \$2100. The homeowners were out there, and they would be comfortable connecting over to our cleanout. I told them I did not know that we were going to accept responsibility because of that box and what was going on. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said there is the idea of setting a precedent and I am not sure how many of these boxes still exist. The tree is in VDOTS right of way so we can get that cut down. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said what we looked at doing if we run a new line and then a cleanout, then the homeowners run theirs over to us at their expense, we would be bypassing that tree. We would slightly go to the right of that at an angle. Director Trent Cox asked if the box was in the right -of -way or their property. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said their property. Director Trent Cox said anything past property line is on them rest would be us. Director Trent Cox made a motion, seconded by Rick Parrish to install the lateral to the property line with a clean out. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.

Attorney Janet Murrell

In your packet you have a new remote participation policy. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbach had sent her what the County attorney had drew up for them, so I went in and reviewed it and basically it is just a restitution of the code. I went in and changed it for the PSA, and I recommend that the board adopt this policy. Director Will Griffin made a motion, seconded by Director Trent Cox, to adopt the new remote participation policy. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.

Superintendent Report:

1. MillRun PRV:

We repaired a Pressure Reducing Valve at 169 Mill run that had cracked and appeared to have been leaking for a long time. Since the repair, our water production has dropped nearly 8,000 Gallons a day.

2. 221 Paving:

Paving is scheduled to begin the first week of June. We have met with Skyline Bank contractors and VDOT to work on a plan for the water and sewer hookups, we are also going to be raising 3 manholes that are currently 3 inches under asphalt, and the notice to proceed has been signed for Sweeney St. The current plan is to have the Bank completed by the end of the month and manholes shortly after. The crossing for Sweeney details is being worked out now. Usually, we require payment before work to be scheduled for connections, however this will need to be billed to the Skyline Contractor at which point they will pay us.

3. Gardner's Trailer Park:

Ever since the new water line was installed there has been a problem with standing water from a natural spring in front of the trailer park. Mr. Gardner contacted me asking for a French drain to be put in from the location of the water over to nearby the stream, running through the property. He has agreed to sign a temporary easement for this work to be done.

Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked if the spring was on their property. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said you could not see a spring before but remember that it was damp through there but never had standing water. After digging through there to install water line water is standing there now. I called VDOT and spoke to Chris about it, but he never got back to me. It could be a minor leak and dry up but would not know until switch everyone over to the new line which is going to be a while. It is not Justin's fault or the PSA, however there is contingency money for this. Director Rick Parish made a motion, seconded by Director Kalinda Bechtold to authorize Superintendent Patrick Nicola to get Justin to install a French

Drain at Gardner's with Janet drawing up a temporary easement for Bob to sign using the contingency money with our work order that is with Bowman and Griffith. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed. Superintendent Patrick Nicola is to get a quote beforehand.

4. Updates/Notes:

- We received an Award letter from VDEM for the FEMA submittal \$10,016.26.
- Notice to proceed has been signed for Nursing Home Pump Station
- Projects Progress Report (see engineering report)
- Attached are Water Loss and Sewer flow I&I Percentage's-

Engineer Report

1. VDH Funding Water System Improvement Projects

The Contractor has completed most of the Route 221 project original scope. The change Order for the extension to NIRA has been signed and contractor plans to start on this section next week. The Contractor provided a quote for the replacement of the sewer across 221 by NAPA and placement of a manhole on the far side. The sewer work was in the expected range of \$35-40k, at \$38,682. However, the pavement costs were projected as \$26,740 for a total of \$65,422. VDOT requires specialty milling and overlay for this type of work and this cost is almost all mobilization and traffic control as it is a very small area. The Contractor did not have a pay request for this project this month as no work was done.

The filter submittal has been submitted to the PSA, Engineer, and VDH. It has been approved, and a ZERO cost change order has been processed for the change in equipment and building modifications. The Contractor will have to make the building approximately 3' taller to handle the change in equipment. These tanks are narrower and taller than the original tanks designed.

The Notice to Proceed for Sweeney was issued on March 24. VDOT is planning on repaving that section of 221 in June or July and permission was given to the Contractor to open cut the road instead of boring and casing the line. This will result in savings of approximately \$11,760. The Contractor is getting ready to start on that portion of work.

The PSA has asked the Contractor to quote on the ground loops at the well structures and the chemical feed tanks, pumps, etc. instead of doing to work as force account. There is a budget of \$163,500 set for these tasks.

2. Nursing Home Pump Station Replacement

PSA has started the process of obtaining 460 V, 3 phase power for the new pump station. The Contractor is starting the preparation for setting the new pump station and is working on coordination of delivery of the pump station in the next weeks.

3. Slaughters Pump Station:

Contractors are going to start gathering submittals for this pump station. The plan is to reuse some of the electrical equipment from Nursing Home on this project.

4. VDH Grant Application:

VDH has a special 23-million-dollar pot available left over from Hurricane Helene. The PSA is planning on applying for money for generators, roof replacement, etc. The money is very limited in what it can be used for. Applications are due May 2. A resolution to apply for the grant funding is needed.

Director Kalinda Bechtold made a motion, seconded by Director Bruce Turner to apply for VDH grant funding with appropriate signatures. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.

The PFAS funding application under generic grant will cover drilling a new well. The plan is to put together a grant application that will cover putting treatment on the 3 Wells and applying for drilling new wells.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

Department of Housing and Community Development: Community Development Block Grant –

Virginia Revolving Loan Funds: These are normally grant/loan programs.

Virginia Resource Authority: These funds are typically restricted to Towns and Counties.

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Program: SERCAP provides limited grant funds for development of water and wastewater infrastructure for low- income rural residents.

Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission: Requests for utility infrastructure funding should serve economic development objectives and sites.

Director Kalinda Bechtold made a motion, seconded by Director Will Griffin to adjourn. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.