

Floyd-Floyd County PSA
Water/Wastewater Board Meeting
September 11, 2025

Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch called Thursday September 11, 2025, board meeting to order at 5:42 pm. In attendance was Vice Chairman Mike Maslaney, Director Will Griffin, Director Bruce Turner, Director Kalinda Bechtold and Director Rick Parrish. Via zoom was Director Trent Cox. 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 look over the minutes for approval. Director Kalinda Bechtold made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairman Mike Maslaney to approve the August 2025 minutes. Roll call of members replying yes, with Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch abstaining, motion passed.

Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked to look over the account payables. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked why lights for the press building did we get LED lights. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said we did plus the others were getting rust and burned out. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked if testing had went up. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said yes, and we had to do extra testing when we had the boil water notice, and we did the rest of our quarter testing for the year. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said she noticed two payments to Blue Ridge Analytical and to check on that. Vice Chairman Mike Maslaney made a motion, seconded by Director Kalinda Bechtold to approve the August 2025 account payables. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.

Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner reviewed the financials as of August 2025. Stated that we have 3 CDs maturing this month, do we want them to roll over or how the board would like to proceed. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said to check all the banks and see what they offer. Administrative Assistant Teresa Conner said she would check and then email Linda, Will and Mike for approval as to what to do. Director Rick Parrish made a motion, seconded by Director Bruce Turner to approve the August 2025 financials.

Attorney Report:

Did the PSA want to make the public hearing we had last month on the ordinance part of the PSA policy. Director Kalinda Bechtold made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairman Mike Maslaney to add the emergency alert ordinance to the PSA policy. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.

Superintendent Report

1. Water Break

On Saturday Aug 30th we received a call from Mike Shumman about a water break at the corner of Sweeney and 221. We determined it was the old water line and valved it off. The service connections had not been completed so we called Justin, and they came out, and we connected the two remaining services that night. There was a question about where CVS was connected so Sunday morning, we checked with them, and they didn't have water.

Justin sent Tyler out and we had to open cut the road to connect CVS to the new line. Sunday evening, I was contacted by the homeowner at 129 Sweeney St. that they had no water, so we went back out and found two additional lines that needed to be connected to the new line. Tuesday Justin's crew was at work cleaning up the sights and preparing for the complete tie in of the new line and abandonment of the old which was scheduled for Sept4th.

2. Updates/Notes:

- Projects Progress Report (see engineering report)
- Attached are Water Loss and Sewer flow I&I Percentage's

Director Will Griffin asked when we are going to read more frequently. When we went to the radio read that it was one of the purposes of this so that we can see if someone has an issue before the actual bill time. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said in the winter we were reading an additional time when we had leaks but otherwise, we just read once a week. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said she thought we already discussed reading twice a month. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said we can read 2 weeks after bill goes out and then when we read on the 25th. Director Will Griffin said it would just help catch issues ahead of time for the customers.

Director Trent Cox zoomed in about 6:14pm

Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said that Director Trent Cox needed to state why he wasn't in person. Director Trent Cox said he was at a meeting in Blacksburg, VA. Director Kalinda Bechtold made a motion, seconded by Director Bruce Turner to approve Director Trent Cox participating by zoom. Roll call of members replying yes, motion passed.

Engineer Report

VDH Funding Water System Improvement Projects

Route 221- Linework switching still needs to be completed on this project, abandonment of the old line, and completion of restoration including paving. The Contractor was over 57 days late on substantial and is already at 4 days late on final completion. The Engineers inspection budget went over budget by approximately \$1800 as the budget was not expanded when the extension was added. This work was hourly.

Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked what the switch dates are. Contractor said within the next 2 weeks by end of September.

Well 6-The Contractor has completed the shell of the building and is working to complete the interior and set the filters. The filters are in Hillsville at his shop. The Contractor said he hopes to be substantially complete next month on the filter building. The PSA, Engineer and Contractor are exploring cost alternatives for the ground loops including alternative source location for materials (material savings), elimination of the Well 5 ground loop, and the possibility of the PSA installing the chemical feed pumps and tanks. The Contractor got us a quote late this afternoon that was \$60,000 less from materials, elimination of Well 5 and the PSA installing the chemical feed pumps and tank. The contractor has also asked that we give an extension on the projects. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said on projects like this we can go out and shop for materials. Patrick said the contractor usually does that we just did it this time cause the cost didn't seem reasonable to see the difference.

Director Trent Cox asked to give history on the loops. The PSA bought the materials and was going to do the work. Engineer Matt Gros said yes but when Patrick moved into the PSA, we didn't have the capacity to do this ourselves in a timely matter so that is when we moved to VDH. Director Trent Cox when the deadline is to get the loops in. Engineer Matt Gross said they have to be in before Well 6 can go online, hopefully October. Director Trent Cox said even though he is substantially complete does it have to go online. Engineer Matt Gross said if you want to turn Well 6 back on and not have taste and odor then yes. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said that manpower is the issue. We have a backhoe, but it is hard to carry that pipe around.

Director Trent Cox asked if we were going to save using Justin. Patrick said yes. Matt said it went from \$177 to \$114,000 by Lowell cutting out the alternative materials, eliminating the installation of the chemical feed tank & pumps and Well 5 ground loops. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked was the \$60,000 reduction was a fair price. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said yes.

Elimination of the ground loop at well 5 is an acknowledgement that the well yield has been reduced from 60 gpm to approximately 13 gpm and is not likely to come back. We believe that this occurred during Elwood's timeframe and that is why the well was originally shut down. The ground loops were designed for the VDH approved pumping rate (60 gpm). At 13 gpm we don't need the loop but would need to restrict the pump from exceeding 13 gpm from here out (unless a future loop was added). The Health Department has been consulted regarding this, and it would offer approximately 27k in savings at the Contractors original price.

Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said one thing looking at doing as we proceed with some of the work at Commerce Park and looking at drilling a Well within that scope of monies. The Well would be for the PSA and replace Well 5 and it would not be on the fracture that Well 6 is on.

Sweeney-The Contractor completed the switchover of the services and final tie in Sweeney last Thursday. The Contractor does need to complete the paving, site restoration, and complete the record drawings. The installation of the additional service line for Mr. Shuman as part of the easement negotiations eliminated the approximate 12k savings from the open cut change order. If less pavement is required than the quantity estimated, it could still potentially come in under budget.

Funding- The PSA has stated they are going to take over the majority of the remaining inspection work for this project and that it will provide a minimum of \$20k in savings to the project budget. The VDH project budget for inspection (\$69k) actually exceeds the H&P contracted budget for inspection (\$36,650 of which \$14,415 has been billed) and additional money can be moved to contingency from that budget. Additional identified savings are the amounts set aside for easement acquisition (\$1.5k), legal and bond counsel (\$7k), and we believe there will be some savings in the WBOP and Asset Management Costs of approximately \$10k. Engineering is also on an hourly basis, and we are running under budget on Sweeney (\$5k). So total funding savings from engineering are approximately \$73,500.

Slaughters Pump Station:

No significant change.

3. **Nursing Home Pump Station Replacement**

The Contractor has set the new base and is preparing for the connection to the old wet well. The miscommunications regarding the minimum wet well diameter have led to a change order request of approximately \$50k from the Contractor for the additional materials, planning, and crane work. We have asked for additional breakdown. The plans for the station indicated the existing wet well size and Gorman Rupp did not question or indicate they would have an issue with the smaller sized original wet well during the bidding process. The Engineer, in conjunction with the Contractor and the PSA is preparing a letter to Gorman Rupp and their representative Tencarva asking for compensation to offset the cost of the change order from the Contractor.

4. **WBOP & Asset Management Paperwork:**

No Change. Will be completed prior to construction progress completing on the VDH project

Nursing Home Pump Station discussion by the board

Engineer Matt Gross said they are trying to get together every correspondence that we have had with them, and Contractor has had. Engineer Matt Gross said that nothing was ever mentioned about this not working until they sent over a 411-page document that was on one page on that in that document. He admits that he didn't catch it. Director Trent Cox asked did they send over shop drawings.

Engineer Matt Gross replied yes. Director Trent Cox asked did we approve the shop drawings with Engineer Matt Gross replying yes, we did. Chairperson said that the discussion on Tuesday that we had did go smoothly. I asked Matt to go to his President and ask about this. Mistakes happen but, in this amount, it is very hard for us to absorb 50,000. The suggestion at that meeting was that a letter from Hurt & Proffitt attorney might add some more weight to Tencarva to pay. Director Will Griffin said what about a letter from our attorney to start the process.

Engineer Matt Gross said he would be happy to send Attorney Janet Murrell the letter they drafted for review. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchbuch said they have a great product no doubt with Superintendent Patrick Nicola agreeing, saying the shop drawings were approved but the initial submittals had the proper dimensions. Director Trent Cox asked what the initial submittals were. Engineer Matt Gross said they had the existing Wet Well sizes and apparently it was not in compliance with their minimum, and they never said anything during the bidding phase. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said it was 4'11" and they need 6'. Director Trent Cox said that the shop drawings were submitted after the plans, right?

Engineer Matt Gross said they did the submittals after the bid, but it is also required in the general conditions they are required to call that out and they never did except on one page in a 411 document. Director Trent Cox asked did it have a stamp of approval and Engineer Matt Gross said yes from H & P. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said to his knowledge Christian at Tencarva never knew about the issue. Director Trent Cox so no one is out the money yet? Vice Chairman Mike Maslaney said no it is already in the ground. Attorney Janet Murrell said she thinks that both sides are at fault. They agreed to it in the initial submittals, so you have an argument on that. Director Will Griffin said should the letter from this board be accompanied by a second letter to Hurt & Proffitt stating someone is liable and if we don't get the reimbursement from Tencarva what the compensation is we can get for this from H & P. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said the benefit of the doubt is to let Engineer Matt Gross talk to his boss first. Director Trent Cox said they gave us a quote at the bid opening which was around \$244,000. That

was what the contract amount was for, so now they are saying that it is 50,000 more. Engineer Matt Gross said no we went to bid for installation separate and Lowell got that. We then noticed that it would not fit on the existing Wet Well. We then had many discussions about how to make this work and after many discussions, Lowell and Groman & Rupp decided to set a vault next to it to make it work. The contract with Lowell was about \$150,000 for the installation and now they are asking for an extra \$50,000. Director Trent Cox asked why Lowell wanted \$50,000 more. Engineer Matt Gross said it's to make the Gorman Rupp station accommodate the existing Wet Well with an adjacent vault. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said when Lowell noticed it was not going to fit, he redesigned it to figure out to make it work, so he is taking an 8' Wet Well and sitting right next to the existing Wet Well and they are going to angle through it. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked who did the original plan. Engineer Matt Gross said Hurt and Proffitt. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch asked why they didn't do the redesign. Engineer Matt Gross said Lowell did it on his own and didn't state he was going to charge for it, and he sent it to me, and I told Lowell it looked fine. Superintendent Patrick Nicola said that when this first was brought up I asked who was going to pay for this because it seems like it would cost a lot at which point Engineer Matt Gross said the contractor never got a quote or change order and the board was not aware either. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said why did Lowell think he was going to be compensated for it and Hurt & Proffitt could have done this for nothing. Director Trent Cox asked for the quote that Lowell sent today to be read out loud line by line. The vault is the most expensive thing there. Attorney Janet Murrell said with no change order and there was knowledge of this cost how do you expect the PSA to pay for that. Engineer Matt Gross said that is the issue he is having with Lowell right now. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said again shouldn't Hurt and Proffitt be the one to have done the redesign, with Engineer Matt Gross said they could have they were working on different options when Lowell submitted something. Attorney Janet Murrell asked did we sign a contract with him, does it talk about if the project changes, and does it have to be approved. Engineer Matt Gross said yes that's general conditions. Attorney Janet Murrell said ok what happens when that doesn't happen. Engineer Matt Gross said he wasn't sure he would have to look it up. Attorney Janet Murrell said the agreement is going to be bound by that contract whatever it says, and if it states you have to approve change orders before that can happen, I don't think you need any letters sent because he would have breached the contract.

Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said she was back to the point of why Lowell had to do this change order, why he didn't follow procedure, why didn't he follow what was in his contract to do. How Engineer Matt Gross knowing that something was being redesigned and it was not you doing that. Engineer Matt Gross said him and Carmen were working on different alignments when Lowell said here is the design that he had done. Director Wil Griffin asked Engineer Matt Gross would he redesigned it any differently with Engineer Matt Gross replying probably a little and the design would have been less.

Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said she was going to go around the room for everyone's comments on this. The question went to Director Trent Cox first if someone did something at your water facility, they did a redesign without being asked, did not put a change order in, did not get signatures what would you do? Director Trent Cox said it is a little difficult here because it comes down to the relationship, but theoretically by law if it is not a written change order then you would not have to pay for the work they did. Legally we have the right to ask him to eat that cost but as far as we should that depends on the context of what we discussed. If we are going to have to have done this redesign anyway need to look at the cost and is it acceptable.

Vice Chairman Mike Maslaney said he agrees with Director Trent Cox. Basically, one way or another we are going to have to make this work. We can go to Gorman & Rupp and tell them it didn't fit and have this discussion with them and maybe a little money but probably not much and going back to Lowell.

Director Rick Parrish said these figures are a bid but not net cost. What if we agree to accept it at cost because it was a mistake and did not follow procedure. That would be fair.

Director Bruce Turner said he agrees with everything that has been said so far by the other board members. If we would have done this with change order with what we came up with what would have been the difference. Engineer Matt Gross said the materials would have cost less, but the labor would have been significantly more.

Director Will Griffin said hearing everyone else there is liability from Lowell's and Engineer Matt Gross's side. I would just say that we engage with Matt Gross to be our engineer and you should always interject yourself as the head engineer, and I think personally you should have got with Lowell and said no you are not design this we need to figure out how to fix this and say I am the engineer and the PSA is the one paying you as our engineer and for Lowell to go out and be the engineer

you should have picked up on that sooner.

Kalinda Bechtold said she is torn between hard-line contracts but maintaining a relationship with our contractor since it appears we would have to incur these expenses except for the design.

Attorney Janet Murrell said, however the PSA decides to move forward with this, it needs to be made clear to Lowell that this will not happen again ever.

Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said to summarize everything our best avenue is to figure out how we might be able to get cost on this but goes back to asking Gorman & Rupp for monies and Hurt & Proffitt for monies and then Lowell.

Chairman Mike Maslaney said that if we take out the \$5000 on the design like Director Kalinda Bechtold mentioned that was an issue that should have been addressed ahead of time and then some of the bonds, insurance and mobilization we will have Lowell take the cost for that and we will pay for the physical stuff at cost. Chairperson Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch said to Engineer Matt Gross she knows they are taking the design cost off but still at the end of the day as Director Trent Cox noted the shop drawings were approved by H & P.