

WATER COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 28, 2018
MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pete Frisina, Chairman
James Preau, Vice Chairman
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Lee Pope, Water System Director
Commissioner Steve Brown

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Dennis Davenport, County Attorney

GUEST:

Yvonne Smith, Harvell Walker, Larry Mapp

STAFF PRESENT:

Russell Ray, Matt Bergen
Anita Godbee, Blaze Jeffrey

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pete Frisina at 8:00 A.M.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 14, 2018.

Commissioner Steve Brown made the motion and Lee Pope seconded, to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 14, 2018. Steve Rapson commented these are the minutes we want to be sure to send to the Board of Commissioners, so they can get a read prior to the March 22 meeting. Mr. Davenport did a really good job explaining. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PRIVATE WATER SYSTEM EMERGENCY ORDINANCE DISCUSSION.

Mr. Davenport said nothing has been added to the emergency water ordinance. This is another opportunity if there are any more comments to be made with respect to this ordinance and draft form before it goes to the Board of Commissioners, this is an opportunity to do so. Chairman Frisina clarified this is scheduled for the Board on March 22. Mr. Davenport stated the Water Committee voted at the last meeting to send it to the Board for the. You have already taken action; this is just another opportunity for comment if necessary.

Commissioner Brown asked if we have notified all of the affected subdivisions and associations of the distance they are from the water line and all that stuff. Mr. Pope said that is correct, we sent a letter.

Chairman Frisina asked if there are any comments from the public. Ms. Yvonne Smith said she has quite a few questions. She said thank you for giving her the opportunity. She said she was told that you are doing something for the county water system. Right? That is going to be there, but it would not help so much as

people that live on the ends in her subdivision. She is 329 Plantation Circle, Newton Plantation subdivision. To her that is almost...

Mr. Davenport said he does not understand what she is asking. Ms. Smith said that system that you are putting in, it will have some water. Mr. Davenport stated we are not putting in a system. We are allowing private water system's to tap onto our system if they choose to do so. Ms. Smith said okay. The tap on is only going to serve a certain portion from her community, because the bottom portion will not, will kind of be affected by it.

Mr. Davenport said he does not know what she is talking about as far as that is concerned. Commissioner Brown stated when she talks about her community she is talking about her subdivision, right? But, you're subdivision is all on the same system. If we run the water to that system, it should go to every house that is tied in. Ms. Smith said in the meeting it is only 1 percent.

Chairman Frisina said the system still runs the water; we are just supplying the water. Mr. Pope added in an emergency. Ms. Smith agreed in an emergency. She went on to say in the case of an emergency, it would help some of them; it would not help all of them. That was her understanding on this being done.

Mr. Davenport asked what the rationale for that conclusion is. Mr. Pope explained she is concerned that if we did that and her system comes to us for emergency tie in, some of the customers in her system would not receive service.

Mr. Davenport said before you tie on, he presumes that some people in the system have less pressure than others. He asked if that is what she is saying, in your system. Ms. Smith said yes. Mr. Davenport said if it is an emergency and you tied onto our system, that emergency tie on isn't dependent upon pressure generated by your system. It comes straight from our system, so there is not a pressure issue as far as your subdivision will be concerned because you are going to get consistent pressure from the county's water in an emergency basis. If there is something in the system unbeknownst to us where your bottom part of your subdivision is separated from the rest of the rest of the system, yes that could be a problem, but we don't know what your system looks like and before we would say yes you can tap on, there would need to be an analysis by the Water Department to determine what your system does look like to say what the effects of tapping on would be. It is not just you ask and you tap on. It is you ask, Water System does an analysis, determines what needs to happen in order for you to tap on and then you tap on. Those issues would come up, he presumes, in the analysis.

Mr. Pope said, exactly, and we will be doing an analysis on the remaining systems next year. Mr. Rapson has already given him direction to do that. We will look at all the other systems that we did not previously look at. Chairman Frisina asked if the tap is temporary. Mr. Davenport said that is correct, the tap is temporary. So

long as the problem can be fixed within 30 days. If it takes more than 30 days, then you start making arrangements to tap on permanently.

Mr. Rapson stated he wanted to be clear. If you have problems with the existing system, and you are concerned with pressures, this is not going to address that issue. Ms. Smith said this is not going to have anything to do with that. So, for instance, lets say you tap on, and you stay on 30 days. Mr. Davenport explained when you tap on, the emergency is defined to last no longer than 30 days. Ms. Smith asked after the thirty days and it is not working properly, then you are telling me what is going to happen.

Mr. Davenport said what happens is the owner of the system begins making arrangements to tap on permanently because it is no longer an emergency as defined by our ordinance, it is something that is catastrophic to the point where he can't fix it and we need to make arrangements to get it tied onto the system. We don't know what that looks like, we are just putting a benchmark date there so if you have an emergency, don't use our system as your backup system, so to speak, because that is not what it is for. It is only in cases of an emergency.

Ms. Smith commented she noticed something yesterday and a few days ago about the system where she is right now. You call these quick fixes, putting things together, here and there. It seems like everything is a quick fix and it may work and it may not work. Right now, at this point, we don't know what we are working on, right.

Mr. Davenport stated he does not know what Ms. Smith is asking him. Ms. Smith said what he just said when you tap on, the water well, thirty days. Mr. Davenport said that is not up to us. That is up to your owner of your system. That is not our issue. Ms. Smith said, okay it is not your issue. It is up to the owner. Mr. Davenport said correct. Ms. Smith said if it doesn't work, then we go back to the owner, then what happens, is there anything that can happen? Let me just say this. You have been passing this around for so long and she just learned back in 2017 that those are not fire hydrants and things like that; and also with the water pressure. Every time we go out to the system, every time she talks about it, they say well you know it is an old system. She said yes, it is exactly 54 years old. It came into effect in 1964. Nothing has been done about this. She said she had Commissioner Rousseau out to her community, the drains are broken and everybody says, well, you know it is up to the residents that own that property. She said she is sick and tired of hearing this back and forth. Right now, this tap on, if it is going to take place, and if it doesn't work, we are going right back where we started; Rick Jeffares again and EPD. She said am I right about that?

Mr. Davenport responded "no you are not." Ms. Smith said you just said if he doesn't do anything about it what would we do. Mr. Davenport said as he explained the first time, if it is not repaired and fixed within 30 days it is no longer an

emergency and the owner of that system will need to make arrangements with the county to get it tied onto the county permanently. That is what he said.

Ms. Smith said if the owner does not make arrangements with the county to do it, then what would happen? Mr. Davenport said the owner is not going to have a choice because he does not have water to supply to the system. If he doesn't have water to supply to the system, we step in and say, this is what we are going to require you to do because you are now coming onto our system. We are setting the ground rules as far as that is concerned.

Ms. Smith said when you set the ground rules are you changing anything about piping or everything that is there because they are old. Mr. Davenport said everything is open for discussion at that point because he has not been able to fix the problem.

Commissioner Brown commented the State is probably going to get involved at that point, too. Mr. Davenport said most likely. Commissioner Brown said they have a regulatory responsibility for you being able to get access to water. They are probably going to say to the private institution, you are now giving it to the county because you can no longer provide water.

Ms. Smith asked if the State means EPD. Commissioner Brown said that is correct. Mr. Davenport said we are talking about a catastrophic situation if that occurs. Commissioner Brown said when you cannot get water to your house, period, not low pressure, but no water, that is a catastrophic event and they will...they have with systems in the past said you are giving it over because you can no longer provide that service.

Mr. Davenport said it happened in Fayette County one time in the 80's. That is what occurred. The county took the system over and there was a lot of back and forth with the owner of the system and the county. It is just what you have to go through to make the fix permanent. He said he does not know what that looks like sitting here today. But, that is up to the private system owner. We work with the private system owner to the extent, we set the 30 day period to prevent the private system owner, from saying I will fix it next month, and then I will fix it next month. No, you will fix it within 30 days, if not; let's make arrangements to get part of a permanent system.

Mr. Pope said he thinks what is an important part of the problem is we are not going to go and purchase a system that we have to go in and completely put new piping in. This would hopefully, push a system into having to go ahead and give us the system. What they are wanting us to do right now, a lot of the systems, is they want us to purchase them, then we will have to go in and bring them up to our standards. Which we talked about, so that you would have water pressure that meets what our minimum standards are and that is completely different because we don't own that system, as of right now. But if that system owner couldn't bring

things up to par and he gave us the system, then we would definitely put it in a capital plan to go in and improve that water system, but right now, we can't do that. It is his water system.

Ms. Smith said she understands that, but Rick Jeffares, according to EPD, has been issued citations for some time. She is not able to get the records on compliance with this. As a matter of fact a woman called yesterday from EPD saying she has been hearing this a long time, back and forth. When she first talked to you guys about it, she brought EPD, Rick Jeffares and the county together; said they didn't want to buy it, so he said he wanted to sell it. You guys said okay. To this date, we have nothing there, no water at all, which really, what we should, at 6:00 in the morning, don't dare turn the water on. You are not getting any, maybe drip drop. That should not be happening. She said she had someone out to let her know what should be happening with this because the pressure should go up at certain hours of the day, like in the morning. You will be in the shower all day trying to get a shower. This is not new to any of you sitting here. This is old stuff. She said she keeps saying the same thing over and over again and she is not getting anywhere, so now you are saying something about all this other stuff you are talking about. Please don't do that, listen to what I am saying. This has been a problem in her subdivision and then she had others to come on and called her so they can join in with her as well. It is a problem all over and EPD says, well you know, there are all kinds of wells and this and that and the other pipes. They are not doing anything. She is thinking about coming to the county and says okay when Rick Jeffares bought this system or however he acquired it, shouldn't somebody have inspected something then, to see that it wasn't working? Did the county just say okay you got it? She said she has (she was told she was not supposed to have these) from 2014 everything that has been given to Rick Jeffares from the county and from the State as well; of what he is supposed to do. Nobody enforces this, no one has and she would like to see all the paperwork that came from him where he was cited. He was cited in 2016. Nothing has been done, until she started this, you guys never bothered to even get involved. No one even thought about it, even all the subdivisions, we just let it happen. Now, the things that you are planning to do, she knows in the meeting that she had with the Commissioner was that maybe it would help, but it wouldn't help anybody in her subdivision, but you said that it will. She said she will take that and in 30 days, after 30 days, nothing has been done, if you find something wrong, then this is what you are doing, that is what you do. She said she just wants to make sure that you live up to those 30 days. If everything goes right, then fine, if it doesn't she wants to make sure that you guys are going to come back and tell us what you will do to help us get this done. She said she does not think that is wrong.

Mr. Pope commented that he thinks it is important that she understands that this is an emergency tie in only. Ms. Smith said yes, she knows, she understands about it being an emergency tie in. Commissioner Brown said she deserves a lot of credit because until she got involved we didn't talk about emergency tie in's. Mr. Pope commented that is right. Commissioner Brown said we didn't have anything

involved and she got us thinking about that, so that is good. She essentially assured that her subdivision will have water in the event of an emergency and she deserves kudos for that and the other subdivisions as well. But, you have to remember, between Jeffares and you, the relationship goes with you as the consumer to Jeffares and then to the EPD. Jeffares does not report to us. We are out of that equation, so whatever Mr. Jeffares does with his water system is subject to inspection and regulation from the EPD and you can apprise us of some things that are going on and if we think there is something that is really significantly harmful or something like that, yes, we can petition EPD on your behalf, or something. But, water pressure is not necessarily an issue that we petition the EPD on as long as they are meeting the minimum standards for water pressure. That is the relationship. It is you and Jeffares and EPD. We are not in that line of...

Ms. Smith said she understands that. EPD is one that will do exactly what Jeffares says. She has someone that comes from EPD to inspect their system. They let her know about all the cites and they can go on to let her know did he comply with what happened when he was cited. Okay, they get back to the office and they say Ms. Smith I will write this up and I will send you a copy. He gets back to the office and you wait a couple of days, she said she called. Well, there is nothing wrong with this system. Okay. If you tell me that Jeffares has all these cites, you are going to write him up, you get back to EPD and they said there is nothing wrong. How do you or anyone else get involved with this?

Commissioner Brown said we don't, we don't have any authority. Ms. Smith said, right, but this report is 64 pages. It says he was getting rid of wells 1 and 2 because the Municipality was taking it over. She said she has it in writing here that is what it says.

Mr. Davenport said he can say that all he wants to, but it doesn't make it true. Ms. Smith said this comes from EPD. Commissioner Brown said he would have to have some sort of signed agreement with the County and nothing exists like that. Ms. Smith commented to her it is a safety issue.

Mr. Rapson stated what he would like for Ms. Smith to do is give him a copy of all of that and let us look at it. If there is any actionable item we can do as a county, we will get back in touch with you. You are referencing a lot of documents that we have not seen. Ms. Smith said it is amazing. Mr. Rapson stated, there again, this isn't our system, we wouldn't have seen that stuff. Ms. Smith said she understands that.

Mr. Rapson said he thinks what Commissioner Brown said is spot on; which is, the relationship is EPD and the owner and you and we are not in that relationship. We have that same relationship with our entire system. Ms. Smith asked is there any way that by her coming to you, the County, that you cannot even call EPD or say...

Mr. Rapson said he does not think we are not willing to talk to EPD, but you are asking us have conversation with EPD about let's say there are issues with another system that is not our system. We can certainly enter into a dialogue because ultimately we have a relationship with that if that system fails, because EPD will be looking to us to fix the system. So, there is a little bit of a concern that we have that we could look at. We would be more than glad to look at that. He said he knows that when his Water Director, who has conversations with EPD, has had conversations with EPD, not only about your system, but all the systems that are private and there aren't any issues out there that have been communicated to us from EPD that are an ongoing concern for EPD that would allow him to raise it up to the Board of Commissioners level and say we have a problem with this private water system and it looks like it is a going concern and it is something we need to address. One of the things that we have been charged with is we have looked at 8 of these systems, we haven't looked at the other systems. So, we are going to do the exact same evaluation we did for Plantation that we did for all the other systems. We are going to do that exact same thing this year, so that we have at least a pretty good blue print of what it would take if we had a problem with one of those and EPD knocked on our door and said, Hey, you need to take over this system. We kind of have a blue print in hand to make that happen. That is kind of where we are right now.

Mr. Pope commented that he gave Ms. Smith Jack Capps phone number, he is sure she has not talked to him yet. He is the Branch Chief over all of Water at EPD. Mr. Pope told her to contact Mr. Capps and he would get back in touch with her. Let him know of her concerns. Ms. Smith said she received a call from EPD yesterday. She said she knows for a fact the issues he was cited for, all these cites were addressed to Jeffares. He wanted a copy of his being in compliance, this was in October 2015. So far, they can't find that, and the person that did that is no longer here.

Mr. Rapson said we would be more than happy to review whatever documentation she gives us. Mr. Pope urged her to call Jack Capp, because he is probably not even familiar with what her problem is. Ms. Smith said the Director and everybody else has been calling her trying to explain why with this Jefarres thing, what is going on, you can only get 20 psi and whatever the case may be. This is what is going on with them now. They are the ones that are suffering. This has been going on for a long time. Considering the fact that this is a safety issue with there not being fire hydrants and things there, various people know about that.

Mr. Rapson said let him read into the record that there is not a problem with your fire hydrants, we do not depend on those fire hydrants. When we respond to several areas, not only your private water system, but some subdivisions that don't have any type of water system, they are all on wells, we respond accordingly with the Fire Department so there is not an issue with fire delivery.

Ms. Smith stated she begs to differ. Mr. Rapson said he understands, but let him just read into the record. We have provisions for those fire services in such a way that we do not rely on those systems. Quite frankly, if we tied into those hydrants, we may either damage the system or, at a very minimum, pull the wells dry so that you do have a water issue. So, we do not rely on those systems when we do fire service.

Ms. Smith said she begs to differ with him, when your Fire Department came out to my home, 2007 and when they used the water, whatever they had, the tanker truck. Mr. Rapson said they never accessed the fire hydrant. Ms. Smith said they went to the fire hydrant. She said she was standing there, and other people were standing there. They went to the fire hydrant and learned that they were without fire hydrants that day. In 2017, at a meeting that we had, that is when they said they did not know that those were not fire hydrants, it was marked as such. She was standing there, it was her home, she was watching it burn. She saw them go there and everyone else in the community was standing there. They found out and learned at that time those are not fire hydrants, but the thing about that is for anyone, you cannot replace a person, a child. She said she knows about the tanker trucks, they told her they had them then, and then you ask me why they had 7 or 8 trucks lined up on my street. She said she is fighting for her, and whatever she needs to do to get it done, that is what she will do. It is very nervous with her, she has the whole house redone with this and that and the other. What difference does it make if you don't have any help from the fire department? You cannot say that is what happened. They did go to the fire hydrant.

Mr. Rapson said he is not going to get on that again. He thinks they have discussed that several different times. Ms. Smith said in case you keep saying that, it wasn't happening, we didn't do that, but yes they did. These are very serious issues. It is hard to be in a community knowing that. She said all she wants is for you guys to try to do the right thing. Don't let it happen to someone else and their children, where there are no fire hydrants. She said she knows you said you will get something from the other counties and they will bring other fire trucks, she understands that. They did it the night her house burned down. They had other trucks there and they let it burn because they said; she said she did not make this up, the fire hydrants didn't work. From that day on, we learned they were not fire hydrants. All she is asking for you to do is that this emergency, whatever you are going to do for water, that is one thing, but for her, she needs to feel safe. She needs to feel safe in her home and she thinks you would like the same thing back. You can put that down in writing, but that should happen, and she is not the only one now that is complaining. Everybody in the community and then that other subdivision that is now saying they want to be part of this. Maybe we can do something together. She said we are not playing a game here. This is serious. She would not like to be out in the rain today to talk to you guys about this, but it is very important to her. She said that is all she has to say and you have heard what she has to say and it is time for her to leave.

Commissioner Brown said, if it wasn't for her we wouldn't be discussing this ordinance right now. He told Ms. Smith she has made a significant contribution and we appreciate it. He said Thank You and you have caused us to think at the next level and hopefully we will never have to use anything in this ordinance and we will never have to have an emergency, but in the event that we do, we now have a plan and we can execute that plan and we will save a lot of people and the county government a lot of grief because we've got this in place.

Harvell Walker commented that anybody with a private water system is not required to hook to this emergency system? Mr. Pope and Mr. Rapson both said that is correct. Mr. Walker said if you did as a system want to give it back, donate it, whatever, and you say it has to be to your standards, who is responsible for bringing that private system up to your standards? He said he does not know about the other private water systems, but theirs does not have the money. He does not know what your standards would be, maybe theirs meets it, maybe it doesn't, but if it doesn't there is no way in this world...

Mr. Pope commented he thinks this would be a case by case. Mr. Davenport stated the general answer is the private system owner, but depending on the situation at the time, as Mr. Pope is saying, it will be addressed on a case by basis, but that is the starting point, the private system owner.

Mr. Walker said if you are going to take it away from them by the EPA,EPD, whoever, to him you are still saying the water system might have to pay for it or try to pay for it, or if you are going to take it over. It looks like if you are taking it over, now it is your responsibility.

Mr. Davenport said to keep in mind, we are not taking over because we want to, and we are taking over because we have to. Mr. Walker said he knows that. Mr. Davenport said he is giving a general answer to Mr. Walkers question which is that would be the private system owners responsibility, but it will be looked at on a case by case basis. Commissioner Brown said it varies on the circumstances. There have been some cases where you have a water system or a sewer system or something like that through whatever the circumstances are, EPD has taken the thing over and then what they do is they are not going to run it in perpetuity, so they give it to the local jurisdiction and sometimes, with the local jurisdiction they include some funding with that because they realize they are placing an undue burden on that municipality because they weren't expecting this type of expense, so they will give some sort of funding to do exactly what you are talking about. It is not guaranteed, but that probably is in the realm of possibility in the event that they have to take over a system.

Mr. Rapson explained that is one of the reasons why us doing an assessment of that is important because if you ever get to that point, then you can actually have a dialogue with EPD in regards to what the cost will be, and what do we need to do. That is one of the reasons why we are evaluating those water systems because; in

theory you could have a private water system that meets our standards that could be transferred over today. That is one extreme, the other extreme is all the pipes need to be completely replaced which is what we have seen most of the time. That is why it is important for the owners to allow us to go onto their property and do an assessment of their system. We haven't run up against an owner, yet, that said you can't do that, but in theory, we could.

Mr. Pope said it is all about planning. We are trying to put something in place so that we have a plan, should an event take place. Mr. Walker said in talking to a lot of different people at Rural Water and people that have worked in this for many, many, many years, it looks to him like this is a good option to have. Maybe it is not for everybody, but for backup and maybe you are supposed to have a backup anyway. But, there are circumstances that are going to depend on the cost, we have gone through that and we know what that is, kind of. But they don't really don't have a hard figure; it might get to the point that they can't do it. It is not that they don't want to do it, they just can't.

Mr. Davenport commented all that is taken into consideration during the evaluation on the case by case basis. Mr. Walker asked if they would be able to get some numbers on cost to tap, meter and how far the line is going to run and stuff like that. Mr. Pope said that Mr. Bergen could do all that when we do the assessment on their system. We can definitely give them some detail numbers on it.

Commissioners Brown said an important thing to remember is, this is not static, so the distance numbers that are in this ordinance right now are variable. They will change, because if they build three subdivisions between you and wherever the waterline terminates now, then you are closer. So, you have gone from a quarter of a mile maybe to 500 feet by time you need to do something. That is subject to change, too. It will only change in your favor. It won't get worse, it will only get better.

Mr. Walker said that is only if you take it over. All we are going to do now is tap it put the meter in and that is what we are paying for. Ms. Smith asked about the owner passing the cost off to the residents. Mr. Rapson said that is between the owner and the resident. He has no idea how they would do that. Ms. Smith asked if they refused to pay it, would he be required to take care of it. Commissioner Brown said that would probably be a court battle that you would have to ensue; your association would have to ensue with the water system owner. That is not in our jurisdiction.

III. DISCUSSION OF WATER COMMITTEE MEETING MEMBERSHIP.

Mr. Rapson explained we took this item up because we realized looking back there was no formally created Water Committee. He explained the draft proposal includes all the different things the Committee does as a Board, which is in section 2. Then section 3 is actually the makeup of the membership, there are terms of 2 years and then there would be some staggered ripples, and then you have the actual

makeup which would be a total of 7. He said it would be County Administrator or his designee, the Director of the Water System, Director of Planning and you would have the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners or his designee, and then 3 residents, so a total of 7 for membership is what is proposed.

Mr. Davenport commented the first issue was it is 5 or 7, because we wanted the odd number. Commissioner Brown said his recommendation would be 7. Mr. Pope said he agreed. Commissioner Brown said he thinks it is important that we get people in terms of individuals, citizens on the committee, look at people who live near the reservoirs. We have been able to do that, primarily. Chip was one, and we have Lake Kedron represented. It would be nice to have somebody from the Horton area. It would be nice to be able to get citizens who live in those areas to kind of be representative on the committee. He said he would push for 7 rather than 5 for that reason. Mr. Pope agreed.

Mr. Davenport asked about the length of the term itself. Is 2 years sufficient or does it need to be longer. Mr. Pope asked if we are not mirroring what we are doing with other committees that the Board has. Mr. Davenport said we are as far as the framework is concerned, but he sees the Water Committee as probably having a more unique mission. He thinks you are probably more dependent on continuity with the Water Committee than you would be other committees simply because of the issues that we talk about and the experience and expertise you bring to the table. Two years could be sufficient, he was just thinking; consider making it longer if you think it would be beneficial. Mr. Pope said that was what he was wondering.

Mr. Rapson said he would lean more towards 4. The reason is if we have a significant capital project, it will stretch over 2 years pretty quick. Mr. Pope said that is why he is asking; for him, the longer the term, the better for us because our projects are long term. Mr. Rapson said he does not care whether it is 5 or 7, as long as it is odd. Mr. Pope said he likes 7 because we get more representation from the community. That is the only reason he leans toward that.

Mr. Davenport said under Section 2 Terms change 2 years to 4 years, change 1 year in the third line to 2 years; then all successive terms shall be 2, change that to 4. That way you still have them staggered but, staggered with longer terms.

Commissioner Brown said that would apply to the citizen members. Mr. Davenport said the citizen members are 3 members. Discussion followed about the other members are based on title, whoever is in those positions and they do not have terms. They would be permanent and are placed on the committee by position. Terms are for citizen members.

Mr. Davenport said rather than treat this like a normal committee because it has a different makeup in that the county affiliated members are serving by virtue of their position, the term is not really going to impact them. He said he will modify Section

2a to just address citizens so 2 members would have 4 years terms and 1 member would have a 2 year term to stagger them and after that they have 4 year terms.

Mr. Rapson suggested Mr. Davenport do the final version recommending 7 members and then the Board of Commissioners can weigh in if they think it should be less. Mr. Davenport said there is a blank under Section 2, the page before this; for purpose. He said he was hoping to get some input as far as that is concerned. He can take the blank out, but he wanted to make sure there is a proper purpose in place and you have had an opportunity to provide input.

Mr. Rapson said he did a good job in “a” through “h”, he thinks. Commissioner Brown said mainly what we have today, too is acting also as a forum for citizens to express their concern. Add that. Mr. Davenport clarified above the blank, if he takes out including, but not limited to blank, it would read “in order to make recommendations to the Board, has to formulate some long range water plans for Fayette County, the Fayette County Water Committee is hereby reaffirmed and reestablished.

Mr. Davenport said Mrs. Speegle had pointed out the provision for a Vice Chairman needed to be added on page 6 and the secretary does not need to be a member of the Water Committee.

IV. WATER PLANT UPDATE.

Russell Ray updated the Committee on the Crosstown Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project. We had the final pay application come through in December. He said he wanted to take the opportunity to give the group a final update and wrap this one up. Lakeshore was the contractor on this project. He showed the picture of the filters being cleared out and demolished, the paint job after and the filters that were demoed and replaced with a new console.

Mr. Ray showed pay application number 20, we ended up paying our 99.8 percent of the total contract amount for the contract work. The remainder unspent was under budget, \$7,720.97. The Lake shore contract with change order number 1 was \$4,656,585.63, total paid out \$4,628,864.66. Retainage went to zero with the final payment. He then showed the change order number 1, which was for \$113,304.63. Mr. Pope pointed out this was for Zero2Waste.

Mr. Ray pointed out there were not any unsuitable materials on site; \$3,000.00 was left here; a small amount of money, \$1,472. 80 was left in the laboratory testing for checking the concrete and compaction. In unforeseen conditions \$3, 248.15 was left, we always have a contingency fund built into the project like this.

Mr. Ray showed a picture of the relocation of the air compressor. It was originally going to go in down in the pipe gallery, but when we looked at where it was going to sit and the size of this piece of equipment; we all talked about it and came up with

another place. He said they had the carbon system going down to a pre-carbon feed system; there was a whole room that became available. They opted to move that compressor to that room. He said he thinks that was wise a decision because this winter, due to the atmospheric conditions that we have in the pipe gallery, when the water gets cold, with the warm weather and the moist air comes into the pipe gallery, there is a lot of condensation. That is something we can look at in the future.

Mr. Ray then showed photos of the different areas of the treatment plant before and after the project completion. He showed the permanganate feed building at the pond; the old chlorine dioxide feed system, the purate chlorine dioxide mixing chamber and the electronics that make the system work. Mr. Ray said the purate system requires a different chemical set up so we had to find a place to put two tanks. He showed the initial grading to get that started, the containment, the two tanks, the purate chemical and the sulfuric acid. The next photo showed piping being finished, the connectors for the trucks to pull up to (they are locked and secured).

The next photos Mr. Ray showed were of the filters, the pump pulling water out of the clear well, one pump took water out of the filters for the filter wash system, he pointed out the old filter wash sweep. A blower replaced the pump, the blowers provide air, high volumes of air at low pressure to the bottom of the filters, and he pointed out the stainless steel pipe that carries the air out to the filters. He then showed a photo taken during testing water in the filter with the new filter bottoms in place and how this air gets distributed throughout the whole filter, coming up scouring up through all the media. It is a nice improvement.

Mr. Ray said, as a side note, when the South Fayette Plant was built an air scour was installed at that time. Moving on to the filter gallery, you can see the old filter consoles, down the hall they are putting in the new filter consoles, these were all analogue switches, on/off switches, basically analogue controls. He showed a photo of the new console with the screen. They are touch screens, this is all totally digital. They can go to different screens, there are different screens they can bring up during the backwash process and this information does feed back to the main SCADA computer. Mr. Pope said the operators will be able to tote an ipad around that is a duplicate of what we see on this photo.

Mr. Ray showed the old filter bottoms which are called wheeler bottom, they are cement squares grouted in place and the water would come up through there and there were ceramic balls that set in there, then there was gravel, then sand, then the anthracite in layers. The next photo showed the demolition of that filter bottom. He then pointed out the Leopold bottom, he said they worked very well, but in rehabbing all these filters the decision was made to replace all the filter bottoms.

Mr. Pope explained those are a polymer, plastic and we have experienced failure in those. That is one of the reasons to get away from that kind of an under drain. Mr.

Ray stated Leopold keeps improving these filter bottoms and theirs is a grouted in system. Grout is in between and it allows water and air in between, and allows water and air to distribute well. Occasionally, hydraulics or for whatever reason, a failure of the grout, they have failed, occasionally; there are a lot of these out there being used every day.

Mr. Ray went on to say we opted to go with a stainless steel system, they are bolted in and held in with clamps; water and air comes up through the middle and then radiates out through the bottoms. He showed a photo with the water in place.

The next photo Mr. Ray showed was the pipe gallery when they were first getting started. They had already started removing some bolts, he pointed out all the valves had a cylinder run with hydraulics and water, and piping came back to the consoles. We had analogue controls and the on/off switches up top; they would flip a solenoid valve inside the cabinet and it would allow water to go through the valve up to the cylinders and open and close the valves.

The next photos were the final photos after the paint job was complete, railings have been painted, walls have been painted, and the floor has been sealed. Under the new system, there are valves with a new type of actuator that is a vein type system that sits and uses air. The compressor is very important in order to operate the system. It is all digital back to the control units on the actuator and that is what allows the air to come in and out of the vein from the console.

Commissioner Brown asked for redundancy do you have a backup compressor. What happens if the compressor fails? Mr. Ray explained there is a tank and it has two compressors on the tank. One thing about this system, if you do lose power, you can still either shut the system down, there is still air in the tank to use, and it will help you finish.

Mr. Pope said the tank is sized so we could operate every valve several times whether the compressors are operating or not. We have twin compressors. Mr. Ray then showed the old carbon feed room, he said we now add carbon as it comes into the plant to help with taste and odor.

Mr. Pope stated once we get the ipads up and running we will schedule a meeting at the plant so the Water Committee can see the new Control Console and the new equipment. He said the Crosstown Plant was inspected yesterday for Plant of the Year for our region, so we will see how that goes. Also, it qualifies for receiving the Gold Award. The South Fayette Plant is being inspected today for Plant of the Year. Basically you have two plants that met conditions that qualify them to be in the Plant of the Year contest. There are other plants in our area that do a good job as well, so he does not know how we will fair, but they did qualify to be in those competitions. We are excited to be in the mix. Mr. Ray said it is very exciting for the plants, they have done a lot of work on their part, dotted every "I" they can and crossed every "T" to get the plants ready.

Mr. Pope said the Plant of the Year inspection is pretty detailed because every plant has all the basic stuff. They had to bring in some things to be graded on. They have been jumping through some hoops to bring them up to speed.

Mr. Ray mentioned some future work. CH is in the planning and design stages for new chemical feed systems for the South Fayette Water Plant, now that we have updated the systems at the Crosstown Plant. Commissioner Brown said he thinks there is something we should probably send out in the form of a press release when we finish these major projects. Make people aware. Mr. Rapson commented we will when we get Plant of the Year. Commissioner Brown said whether we get Plant of the Year or not, he thinks we need to let people know that we are spending significant amounts of money and making significant process toward technological and systematic improvements to those water facilities. He said he thinks they need to hear that. It is good psychological stuff out there when they know that the system is heading in the right direction. Whatever we can do to get that out that would be great. Mr. Rapson said he likes the press release. He asked when will they make the decision on Plant of the Year.

Mr. Pope said they tell us at the Spring Conference. Mr. Rapson said we will do this press release and then we will do another one. He said he is confident with the improvements we have made at Crosstown, significant improvements and the fact that we have almost become EPD's "this is how to do stuff poster child county", we have a strong opportunity of getting that. He is optimistic that we will.

Mr. Pope commented that the new plant at Hartwell and the new plant going in at Cobb Marietta are all coming to look at this control system and the chemical feed system that we have put in place. It is definitely state of the art. Commissioner Brown stated people need to know that we are putting in that kind of effort. That is great.

V. LAKE MCINTOSH PARK EVENTS.

Anita Godbee thanked the Committee for letting her come today with some special events they would like to propose at the water reservoirs. She introduced Special Events Coordinator Blaze Jeffrey.

Mr. Jeffrey explained they are looking at putting on two events. First would be the Food Truck Frenzy, which would take place at Lake McIntosh. He said they did it last year and had a huge success; had over 500 people from the citizens come out and really enjoyed it. He said they want to bring this back to Lake McIntosh. They would like to do it three times this year.

Mr. Jeffrey said the dates for this year are Thursday, May 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m.; Friday, July 20, nighttime from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. and Thursday, October 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He said they have had a lot of success with that

overall, doing it in all their other parks as well. They are just trying to gain momentum with that.

Mr. Jeffrey said the other thing would be a Star Gazing Night. They have been approached by a telescoping community. They would love to bring something different for our citizens, gain some interest. Obviously, last year, with the eclipse, people got into it. We want to bring it back, maybe bring it into the parks.

He said they want to do June 22, Friday night, from 9:00 p.m. to midnight at Lake Horton. Obviously, that is after park hours that is why he is here. Also, Friday, July 27, 9:00 p.m. to midnight. They would have over six telescopes set up. These are not your small amateur ones, pretty large size telescopes. They can set it up, look at Mars, which is actually going to be the closest it has been to Earth in over 18 years. They would teach some of the people that come out what they are doing, how they do it, how they can get involved and so forth.

Mr. Jeffrey said obviously with being at Lake Horton after hours, this would be kind of scrutinized. They would set it up; people would have to pre-register for the event, they would have a gate check and register everyone as they show up; and check them in. Only people registered for the event would be at this.

Commissioner Brown asked if he is working with the Science faculty members of the elementary schools and the middle schools. Mr. Jeffrey said they will reach out to them as well, once they get approval for this. They would reach out to the elementary school, middle school, as well as high school students; they are meeting with the Flint River Astronomy Club. They have several high school students already involved with them. Commissioner Brown said he knows the middle schools would love the opportunity to have some sort of physical demonstration on astronomy; something like this would be right up their alley.

Mr. Pope said since these are after park hours, 9:00 to midnight, would we be asking a Marshal to alter their schedule so we could have a Marshal available. Mr. Rapson said yes, we would let him know to alter his schedule accordingly. Commissioner Brown said they would need to keep the gate open, too.

Steve Rapson said with the Food Truck Frenzy it does not sound like they are asking for any exemptions there, you are just letting us know. Mrs. Godbee said that is during normal hours. Just letting you know there will be extra people in the park. Mr. Pope said he likes both of these.

Steve Rapson made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to provide the authority to do the Star Gazing Nights as outlined for Lake Horton on Friday June 22, 2018, 9:00 p.m. to midnight and July 27, 2018, 9:00 p.m. to midnight, to advertise accordingly and notify the Marshal. Vice Chairman Jimmy Preau seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve Rapson made a motion to approve the Food Truck Frenzy request for Lake McIntosh for Thursday, May 17, 2018, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Friday, July 20, 2018, 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Thursday October 18, 2018, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mr. Pope seconded and the motion passed unanimously. This is during the day and does not require Board of Commissioner action.

LAKE PEACHTREE PUMP STATION.

Mr. Pope shared a rendering of the Lake Peachtree pump station. He said we have this in the budget this year. As everyone knows, there is a major update at the spillway, a project the City is doing. This was dovetailed right into that. We are going to try to paint it some more neutral colors. Right now, the originals look like maybe a blue and a red. Mr. Ray said, right a muted blue and a muted red. Mr. Pope said we are going more with a tan and a brown and white. Mr. Rapson said these were actually Peachtree City's recommended colors. The capital project is already approved in the budget. This project will be coordinated with the completion of the spillway project. The question came up about rotten wood being replaced. Mr. Pope said that was addressed in 2012. Mr. Ray said we replaced rotten wood and added panels back; we may need to look at the soffits.

Commissioner Brown said he always wondered why we didn't use synthetic soffit materials, or hardy plank and some things that were more resistant to the moisture situation, especially sitting over the lake. That would probably make a lot of sense when we look at the next go around. It will cost more, but it will last twice as long. He thinks you will definitely get your money out of it. Maintenance cost is probably a lot less, too. Mr. Ray said when this was built; he does not know that hardy plank was available. He said the design and building of the one at Lake McIntosh is all pre-primed hardy plank. Commissioner Brown said when you redo it, that is probably something to consider.

Mr. Pope said we are going to look at a paint that has a little bit of a warranty to it, but he did look into putting rhino liner or something like that on it, and it is just not cost beneficial, because like Steve said we are on the water, it is still going to be wood damage, no matter what product you go with. There is no sense in us spending \$150,000.00 coating this thing when we know we are going to have to come back and coat it later, no matter what we put on there. We will go with a good paint that is going to have some warranty to it.

Mr. Pope said he thinks we shoot for neutral blend in colors for all of our pump stations; he thinks the next one we will be looking at is Lake Horton. It is in the budget, he doesn't know if we will get to it this year, but we have some repairs that need to be done there, too.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Commissioner Brown brought up that we lowered Lake Kedron and his phone started ringing off the hook about "what in the world are we doing to Lake

Kedron". What are the problems and stuff like that. He said we are doing it for capacity sake for the spillway project, but one thing he would suggest is if we know we are going to lower anything in a particular area, notify that jurisdiction and for Peachtree City, it would Betsy Tyler. She sends out a newsletter he thinks it goes to 15,000 residents in Peachtree City. If you tell Betsy and she puts that in there, chances are somebody at the grocery store and the Bridge Club will know what is going on and they can tell that person they don't have to call me at 10:00 at night.

Mr. Pope said she is at the Construction Meetings and they have a schedule on their web site. Mr. Rapson said he had a long conversation with Jon Rorie yesterday; we don't lower that lake or do anything with that lake without Jon Rorie and his Board directing us to do that. This is kind of the agreement we have with them. He understands when we talk about lowering the lake what we are really talking about is they have already asked us to lower it to two feet, but with the rain coming it means you have to lower it in anticipation of the rain coming so we really aren't lowering it any more than what we have already agreed to, which we have already notified the City Council and the Board to.

Commissioner Brown said he is talking about public notification. Mr. Rapson said he lets Jon know and he tells Betsy. Commissioner Brown said he thinks sometimes we have to remind them, you probably ought to tell the citizens that we are doing this. He said he understands that Peachtree City knows about it, but the people who live in the area don't know anything about it. Either we can send a press release saying we are lowering it or Betsy can put it in her thing, but one way or the other, we don't have a bunch of people screaming the lake has a hole in it and we are losing water.

Commissioner Brown went on to say the Water Guardians schedule has been put out for 2018. The first one is coming up at the end of March. He said he thinks CH has agreed to do lunches again. That is great, they are going to provide lunches for all the crews that do that. He said he left June open and the schedule may be subject to some change depending on what happens to Lake Peachtree; if they get that project done on time or not. There was some talk about possibly doing a walk around cleanup and getting some of the stuff that you could see on the surface of the lake bed cleaned up, but that is all dependent on if they are on schedule or not on schedule. He said the weather has been an absolute bear for them on that project. He just left June open, so there is nothing scheduled there. They are just kind of flexing on that. They should get Horton and McIntosh, the really big one; they should hit those twice in the year. The good thing about it, it has been less trash every time they have gone out there. Either people are paying attention, or the trash is sinking to the bottom faster, he does not know which is happening, but is it less trash every time they have gone out there and hauled it. So, that is good stuff.

Mr. Walker said in looking at the budget and all of that stuff and he is referencing back to the emergency water thing about charging three times the water rate. Where does the water plant, you, whoever is totally in charge of all this, where does

your budget come from? Does it come from the water that is sold or does the monies come from some other place also, because when he hears the justification, well, all the water is the sum of the cost of the pipes, the waterlines, the pump stations and everything, that is why we want to charge the private people three times the amount. Is he already, where does the money come?

Mr. Pope said it doesn't come from your taxes. There is a rate base that pays us, and meters and taps is also part of how we pay for the infrastructure improvement. Mr. Rapson commented it is rate payer driven. Mr. Pope said people always say they are tax payers, we are a rate based system, and we are really not here to serve all the tax payers in the county. Mr. Rapson said there a no subsidies from the general fund to the water department.

Mr. Walker said all this money that went into this plant and all that is coming from water, this whole thing. Mr. Pope said water bonds. Commissioner Brown stated the bonds are paid by revenue from water users.

VII. ADJOURNMENT.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to adjourn the Water Committee February 28, 2018 meeting. Lee Pope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Pete Frisina adjourned the meeting at 9:15 A.M.

Peter A. Frisina

The foregoing minutes were approved at the regular Water Committee meeting on the 28th day of March, 2018.

Lisa Speegle