

Jones County Water Committee Minutes
September 7, 2010

The Jones County Water Committee met September 7, 2010 at the Jones County Government Center in the Charlotte C. Wilson Conference Room at 5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Members present representing a quorum of the committee was:

Larry Childs, Committee Chairman
Tommy Robinson, Committee Vice-Chairman
Preston Hawkins, Committee Member
Mike Underwood, County Administrator
Freddie Wiggins, Water Superintendent

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Childs at 5:08 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: Motion by Underwood, second by Robinson to approve the agenda.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes:

1. January 21, 2010
2. July 20, 2010

Motion: Motion by Robinson, second by Underwood to approve the minutes.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

New Business:

1. Floyd Comer – Health Department Issues

Mr. Comer discussed a portion of the permitted well policy adopted by the Jones County Health Department. As it is currently written on page 1 of the handout distributed by Mr. Comer, the policy applies to all acreage with no minimum guidelines in place. Page two of the handout was prepared by the District Office as a guideline for introducing a minimum acreage. The following pages are policy from Peach and Houston counties. The updated policy to be adopted by

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the Health Department would require landowners with two acres or less to tie on to the public water supply system. If wells were to become permitted on larger acreage, a list of stipulations would apply to include, but is not limited to, a well plan, more stringent set back lines, and approval from the public water system (City of Gray, Jones County, Macon Water Authority, Baldwin County, etc). Floyd Comer said that the Board of Health meets tomorrow night and he would like to have an answer for them at the meeting. Mr. Underwood stated that he thought that the two acre deal, going through the application process that is reviewed by the water department as to whether it is a viable option to have a well over the public.

Motion: So moved by Underwood, second by Robinson.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

2. Mobile Home Park

A handout was distributed by Pam Billingsley, accountant with the Finance Department. (See attachments to the minutes). The water cut off policy change for multi-dwelling property with a master meter was discussed.

Chairman Childs called for a motion to recommend the new policy to the full board.

Motion: So moved by Robinson, second by Childs.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

A new policy to increase deposits for water meters was discussed.

Motion: Motion by Robinson, second by Childs to recommend this to the full board also.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

3. Waterline for Highway 18 West - tabled

4. Water System financial statements, budget

Mr. Underwood explained that he wanted to bring it to the attention of the Board that with hard times, the water department is having some hard times. As of August 12, 2010, we are about \$130,000 in the hole. As of August 12, 2010 we

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have a sewer deficit of \$109,251.76 and a water deficit of \$ \$33,251.76 for a total of \$142,453.41. It is getting to be every year we are losing money. Losses were:

2010 (through August 12 th)	\$142,453.41
2009	\$ 98,594
2008	\$300,000 estimated

Water sales are 1,106,977 and costs of employees and purchase of supplies just for the service end of it, are \$1,328,000. When debt service is added in the amount of \$57,000, we are losing money.

Mr. Underwood did a survey of surrounding counties fees for basic service for 3,000 gallons.

The results were as follows:

Jones	\$13.32
Macon Water Authority	\$13.70
City of Gray	\$16.70
Baldwin	\$18.45
Monroe	\$20.00
Jasper	\$21.75
Twiggs	\$26.00

Jones is the lowest cost water provider of the surrounding counties. Mr. Underwood said that we are going to have to do something to make money with the water department. Chairman Childs reminded the committee that on sewer outside of River North we only get seven cents on the dollar and the rests goes to Macon Water Authority until something is done about the flumes; so, if the sewer fees are raised, we won't get much of the increase.

Chairman Childs recommended having the full board to meet to see what we need to do about the rates.

The committee discussed the sewer repairs that are needed in River North. Costs estimates have been received from Jay Matthews at Georgia Rural Water to complete the study for \$4,000 and \$10,000 to do the study over with every manhole throughout the entire development. The water department has the results of the last smoke test that was done that identified the two worst areas.

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Two breaks have 50% rain water flowing through. Access to the breaks has been an issue impeding the repair. Mr. Underwood said that in 2005 the need to build a road was discussed to help address access problems. Chairman Childs said that the 2004 SPLOST has \$500,000 allocated for sewer in River North and recommended having Frank Childs help us obtaining permissions to address the access problems.

Consensus: Consensus was to set up a Call Meeting at 5:00 before the next Commissioner Meeting to discuss rates, the flumes, and the River North sewer problems. Chairman Childs would like to try to meet with the Macon Water Authority again before the call meeting about the flumes.

5. Follow up and plan of action for Hitchcock Road – Chap Nelson

Mr. Underwood reported that he had talked with Baldwin County's manager last week and the project is preliminarily approved and that they should be getting us a letter to address this Board and getting us some rates.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Motion: Motion by Hawkins, second by Robinson to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

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Minutes of the Water Committee:

Submitted to Committee September 10, 2010 by Leila Brittain, County Clerk

Approved by Committee:

Date: _____

Larry Childs, Chairman

Tommy Robinson, Vice Chairman

Preston Hawkins, Committee Member

Michael D. Underwood, County Administrator

Freddie Wiggins, Water Superintendent

Leila Brittain, Clerk of the Board