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Augusta County Service Authority
Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.
Board Meeting Room

PRESENT: Andrew C. Middleton, Chairman, North River District
Garry R. Gordon, Vice Chairman, Middle River District
Harvey Almarode, South River District
Allen Dahl, Beverley Manor District
Matthew Egeli, Wayne District
Michael L. Shull, Riverheads District
Timothy Simmons, Pastures District
Phil Martin, Executive Director
Brent Canterbury, Treasurer
Jean Marshall, Board Secretary

ABSENT: None

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CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

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ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Martin requested the Agenda be revised to change Item 9, 2023 Virginia General Assembly Legislative Update to Item 10, and change Item 10, January 2023 Excellence Awards to Item 9.

Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Egeli to adopt the revised Agenda.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas: Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli,
Shull, and Simmons
Nays: None

Motion approved.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Egeli, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 15, 2022, which have been mailed to the members.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas: Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli,
Shull, and Simmons
Nays: None

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Motion approved.

MATTERS PRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were in attendance to make comments and no public comments were brought forth by Staff.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S HIGHLIGHTS

Mr. Martin stated the Producer Price Index decreased by .5% resulting in a 6.2% year to year inflation rate.

Mr. Martin reported the grading is done at the new Field Operations and Facility Maintenance site. Stonehill Construction will begin construction of the building on February 1.

Mr. Martin informed the Board Casey McCracken completed the requirements and passed the exam to earn his Professional Engineer license. Ron Elkins has obtained the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle license which makes him eligible to operate drones. Mr. Martin showed a video Ron took with the drone of the Field Operations and Facility Maintenance construction site. Dr. Middleton suggested the video be placed on the Service Authority’s web site. Board members congratulated Casey and Ron.

Mr. Martin referred to a handout given to the Board members of a potential solar project he recently became aware of. The project is in the planning stages and is being proposed in the Stuarts Draft area. AES Solar Development is the developer. There were no questions or comments by the Board members.

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PROGRESS REPORT

The December Progress Report was included in the Board packet and was reviewed with the Board.

Mr. Martin stated Phase I of the Government Center waterline replacement is nearly complete. Phase II will start in the near future.

There was no discussion regarding the Progress Report.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no Committee reports given.

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JANUARY 2023 EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Mr. Martin reminded the Board, in 2018, as part of an effort to recognize and reward ACSA employees for exceptional work that goes above and beyond their normal duties, the ACSA Excellence Award was developed. These honors are awarded twice a year covering multiple categories and include a \$200 monetary award, recognition to this Board and inclusion in the ACSA bi-monthly newsletter.

For the last half of 2022, three nominations were received recognizing a total of four people and the departmental directors selected the recipient(s) for each category.

Outstanding Customer Service: Lisa Morrell was nominated by William Monroe. William wrote: A compliment was passed to Phil Martin from Mr. Steve Morelli, Board of Supervisors Member for the South River District, regarding interactions Mrs. Anita Bell had with the Service Authority Engineering Department. The comments were very complimentary of the assistance received. Lisa was a primary contact for Mrs. Bell regarding a developer’s sewer related project. Lisa took extra time to explain easement documents and construction plans and make copies to assist Mrs. Bell. Lisa’s efforts were even more impressive given this is a delicate issue between the developer and Mrs. Bell, and care had to be taken to not embroil the Authority in any dispute between the parties.

Outstanding Effort: Sallie Trimble and Jean Marshall were nominated by Mr. Harvey Almarode for their efforts for the ACSA Christmas Luncheon. On Wednesday, December 14th the ACSA Christmas Luncheon was held at the Frontier Culture Museum Lecture Hall. Besides acquiring the venue to meet our space needs and contracting a caterer to provide the food, this year Jean and Sallie also went a step above and beyond. They organized a Health Fair a week before the luncheon utilizing Wellness Funding from our insurance administrator. By utilizing this funding, they were able to provide a gift for each ACSA employee, which were given out at the Christmas Luncheon. They personally ordered, wrapped and attached employee’s names on each gift for the 115 employees to make it even more meaningful. The extra work and personal touches contributed by these ladies made it a truly extraordinary event.

Can-Do Attitude: Greg Baker was nominated by Chris Kelly, Lab Manager. Due to several personnel changes and promotions in the Lab, Madison Kelly and Rosana Rivera were hired as the new lab techs. Greg voluntarily stepped up and handled almost all of the training for Madison, while also keeping up with his normal work load.

When Rosana was hired, both Greg and Madison began training her. Madison being able to help with training so soon is not only a testament to her abilities, but also to the thorough and excellent training she received from Greg.

Chris mentioned Greg’s actions have gone above and beyond what was expected and the lab would not be in the position it is, if not for him stepping up. Chris finished his recommendation by saying this is not just with the training, but with Greg’s performance as a whole.

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2023 VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Martin reviewed bills being proposed during the 2023 Virginia General Assembly Legislative Session, as presented on PowerPoint, and which the Board members received a copy of. Virginia Association of Municipal Wastewater Agencies (VAMWA), Virginia Municipal Drinking Water Association (VMDWA), and Virginia Water and Waste Authorities Association (VWWAA), organizations the Service Authority is a member of, provided information to the Service Authority regarding the bills. There are several bills these organizations support, several they oppose, and several they are monitoring. They will keep the Service Authority updated on the status of each bill.

Dr. Middleton expressed concern regarding the wording of **SB 1013 - Waterworks; Contaminants; PFAS chemicals; notification to customers**. He stated it leaves a lot of room for inaccurate reporting or misinterpretation by people reading the results of a water quality analysis.

Mr. Dahl asked why the above-mentioned organizations are objected to **SB 849 - Public Utilities; Customer consent to install a smart meter**. Mr. Martin stated there are concerns about health issues caused by radio frequencies, as well as concerns regarding privacy issues.

Regarding **HB 2283/SB 1447 – Disconnection suspensions for certain utilities**, Dr. Middleton stated the Service Authority is not regulated by the SCC but it is regulated by the local government entity who created the Service Authority in Virginia. By lumping municipal utilities together into entities the SCC controls, it is basically pulling power away from the original county or city who created them.

Mr. Martin stated counsel for VAMWA is not strongly opposed to this bill because they believe it will protect municipalities from the possibility of a stricter bill in the future; however, VWWAA would like to see the bill completely defeated.

Mr. Egeli asked for clarification under the current Virginia code, the Service Authority does not fall under the definition of a public utility, but under the definition of a municipal authority. Mr. Martin confirmed that is correct. Mr. Egeli asked if there is concern the definition of a public utility being expanded in the future to include municipality authorities. Mr. Martin stated there has not been any concern in the past of the definition of a public utility expanding or being changed to include municipality authorities.

Mr. Martin informed the Board of a constitutional amendment he was made aware of by VWWAA, which is being proposed during the legislative session. The amendment would allow easements on public property to be granted in perpetuity to a public body, political subdivision, or authority of the Commonwealth or to the United States or any of its departments or agencies. The requirement to advertise and publicly receive bids does not apply to easements conveyed to any such governmental entity. Legal counsel for VWWAA is researching to determine the purpose of this amendment.

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BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Egeli stated Government based on distrust is poor Government.

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There being no further business, Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Simmons to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Middleton, Gordon, Almarode, Dahl, Egeli, Shull, and Simmons
Nays:	None

Motion approved.

Board Secretary

Chairman