

**WATER AND SEWER EXPANSION AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Date: July 8, 2009
Time: 2:00 P.M.
Location: City Hall, Don Davis Room

Attendees:

Jeanell Wilson, Chair
John Craddock, Vice Chair
Pete Jackson
Lawrence Jones
Harriet McDonald
Susan Rudd
Al Sinclair

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order / quorum determined. The Board approved the minutes from the June 10, 2009 Board Meeting.

General Update

1. Nutrient Study: Due to scheduling conflicts, FIT was unable to go out to the sites to sample last month. The revised schedule calls for the sampling to be completed during the week of July 20. The next full round of sampling will take place in December, along with two more samplings in the spring and summer of 2010.
2. Oakwood Villas BJP: Service Area 2&3- Construction is 73.6 percent complete. Service Area 1-Construction is 78.5 percent complete.
3. Lincoln Villa Pilot Project-Grimes Contracting was awarded with a bid of \$1.33 million. Groundbreaking should take place in August. Procurement of the property for the pump station is underway and nearing completion. Service Area 2 project will need to be presented to City Council for approval. Design work funding is provided through FY08 CBIR grant of \$300k.
4. Phase III Update-The database has been designed to accommodate the addition of failure areas. New version of database will be accessible on July 27.
5. Grants-A handout was provided to each board member which reflected different grant monies, what projects they will be used towards, the progress of each grant, and FY10 appropriations. The handout also included potential dedicated, recurring revenue streams. Mrs. McDonald expressed concern that the WSEA isn't moving forward with septic tank elimination like she had hoped. She wanted to know why no one within the city is concerned about failing septic tanks. Mr. Odom stated that there is no one within the city who has funding to take care of the elimination of additional septic tanks. WSEA is not a high priority for City Council right now. He added that within 10-15 years, something will *have* to happen. Currently, there is no dedicated funding source and so few projects. Mr. Odom encouraged board members to attend the Mayor's budget presentation at Monday's City Council meeting. Mrs. McDonald asked where the funding comes from that goes towards

the ash clean up and why it seems to be a high priority (vs. failing septic tanks) for the city. Mr. Odom added that the ash problem has a lot of public support and a potential lawsuit so more attention is on the issue. Mrs. McDonald expressed interest for the board to be proactive in alerting City Council and the Mayor's office of their concerns. Mr. Jackson added that after Mayor's budget is approved and things calm down with Mayor's tax initiative, it will be an opportune time to express concerns of failing septic tanks. Mr. Odom also suggested that the board hold a special workshop to figure out what WSEA should become.

Chris Martoglio of The Contract Management Company (CMC) commented on a study that was performed by CMC regarding funding for septic tank elimination in other counties. Other counties are using funds from utilities, State Revolving Fund, (low interest loan from city), and extra tax revenue. It is a unique and challenging situation in Duval County as the WSEA was created with no revenue stream. JEA doesn't have financial capacity to install new lines nor does COJ. They created WSEA, but no revenue stream to borrow money from SRF.

Mr. Jackson asked what would happen if the board were to disappear. Mr. Odom said it would drive council to look into the issue and get involved. WSEA would have to go somewhere, either COJ or JEA. Either of the two would have to dedicate a funding source for WSEA to succeed.

6. Facilities Plan-Researching options for funding towards Facilities Plan. Hoping to access funding through St. Johns River Water Management District which will go towards voluntary and non-voluntary projects. Mr. Sinclair asked if the 150,000 septic tanks that are in Duval County was an exaggerated number. Mr. Odom clarified that in the beginning that is the number that he was given in the beginning. After more research of the area, the actual number is 70,000 and 30,000 of those are in a septic tank failure area. Mr. Sinclair added most people aren't concerned if something is currently not an issue. In order to get a dedicated funding source, the board needs to push hard to be heard.

Current Projects

- Zona Avenue- Construction is complete. The line has been flushed and samples will be determined at end of week. Line is expected to be ready for connection by next Monday, July 13.

Other Items for Discussion

A resolution was presented to request that the WSEA budget initially be provided to the board at two board meetings and one WSEA finance committee meeting prior to July 1, so that the WSEA board and its finance committee may have ample time to consider the budget prior to voting. **A motion was made by Harriet McDonald to approve the new budget policy. Motion was seconded by Pete Jackson and voted in favor by all members present.**

Request for Public Comment

None.

Items for Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held on August 12, 2009 at 2 p.m. in City Hall/Committee Room B.

Meeting adjourned