

# Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water And Sewer Authority Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Fairburn- City Hall  
56 Malone St. S.W. Fairburn, GA 30213

- I. Chairman J. Clark Boddie called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. Roll Call was taken by Secretary Jessica Davis with the following board members present:

The Honorable Chairman Mayor J. Clark Boddie  
The Honorable Mayor Vince Williams      The Honorable Vice-Chair Sonja Fillingame  
The Honorable Mayor Mario Avery      The Honorable Councilwoman Tara Miller  
The Honorable Councilman Brian Jones      The Honorable City Manager Tony Phillips

The attendance of the board constituted a quorum and the meeting proceeded.

III. **Approval of Water Authority Minutes:**

The motion to approve the November 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 MCRW&SA Meeting Minutes was made by Vice Chair Fillingame and seconded by Mayor Williams. **Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried**

IV. **New Business:**

V. **Discussion and Approval:**

VI. **Reports:**

A. **Water Authority Attorney-**

Attorney Dennis Davenport received confirmation from Gresham Smith (GS) on December 4<sup>th</sup> that they received the authority's letter of termination. According to Mr. Booker, GS have nothing more to provide to the authority nor are they expecting more from the authority. The records are clear.

Coweta County Water & Sewer Authority- The board met with Coweta County on December 7<sup>th</sup>. GM Farmer will provide the board with an update during his report.

B. **Financial Report-**

Attorney Davenport presented requisitions #255 and #256.

Motion to approve Req #255 in the amount of \$40,121.41 was made by Mayor Williams and seconded by City Manager Philips. **Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried**

Motion to approve Req #256 (Principal & Interest Payment) in the amount of \$2,294,487.50 was made by Mayor Williams and seconded by Mayor Avery. **Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried**

Chairman Boddie and Secretary Davis informed the board that the \$708.00 reimbursement for Mayor Boddie was for the Authority's website annual renewal fee.

C. **Project Managers-** Project Manager Benz reminded the board about the updated ordinance requirements for the respected cities for the 2022 water resources management plan. The cities are to update those ordinances without modifications for the standard plumbing.

- EPA: On November 30<sup>th</sup> EPA announced a plan to start replacing all lid pipes in the next several years. It will have a 60-day public comment period that will last until about January 2024. The link to the EPA website is at the bottom of the memo.

Vice Chair Fillingame asked, outside of the plumbing ordinance that's approaching, is there anything else that the cities need to be aware of in terms of having as a requirement?

Project Manager Benz stated that she has not received any other requirements needed from EPA.

#### **D. General Manager-**

Coweta County Water & Sewer Meeting: Coweta is more than willing to step up and see what the relationship would be between the authorities. They're very receptive. GM Farmer isn't quite sure if they can deliver 200,000 gallons of water a day. The mayor informed GM Farmer that there have been improvements made on Coweta's side, and several things have been put in place. GM Farmer informed the board he believes there's an excellent opportunity with Coweta. The authority should move forward with a good engineering firm to assist.

Attorney Davenport stated that Coweta was issued a 404 permit, which is a big build. They're looking at probably spring of 2026 to start water flow between the three cities. Attorney Davenport mentioned that the authority would need to do certain things to receive the water, and this will provide ample lead time in the event the authority is interested in pursuing the relationship. It would be a good idea to enter a MOU to talk about what both sides' expectations are. Coweta's attorney is ready to adopt within the next 60 days. They can supply all water needs that can expand beyond the south and north. Krebs is their engineering firm.

Project Manager Benz stated that they will be able to provide up to 6 million gallons a day by April 2026.

Chairman Boddie stated that the authority can partner with Coweta County as opposed to being their customer.

Mayor Williams asked did they provide the authority any numbers to consider.

Attorney Davenport shared with Coweta that the cost of water is shown as the municipal rate. Attorney Davenport asked them to let him know what that municipal rate was, and they're going to send it. Once Attorney Davenport receives the information, he will share it with the board.

Mayor Williams stated that this is an extremely vital opportunity for the authorities having the opportunity to have a conversation with Coweta. Atlanta has been great, but the authority has a few concerns with the city. Mayor Williams likes hearing that there's a possibility to work with Coweta and looking forward to more info.

City Manager Philips stated that it seems like this is a vital conversation. He shares some of the same concerns as Mayor Williams. There are some major infrastructure issues, and the City of Fairburn has residents and council members who are concerned about the huge cost that Atlanta has, and that will affect all three cities. This sounds like a conversation that we need to follow and see where it goes with Coweta.

GM Farmer stated the authority has the best of both worlds. There are a lot of discoveries that need to be made as it relates to the city of Atlanta. Coweta is more easily accommodating to deal with. He believes the authority should go with that option and look into hiring an engineering firm. The City of Atlanta was

working off Krebs PER. GM Farmer further stated that he revisited the plant. The plant seems to be very well-mended. It is an aging plant. Anyone could have a catastrophic event and if it happened to a water treatment facility, what would the authority do? This is something to think about. If the authority doesn't have any tie-ins, right now, Coweta cannot meet the demands. It's something to consider. With an engineering firm like Krebs, that's a big deal. Krebs is ready to jump in there and it's very encouraging.

Councilmember Jones asked if the authority has a sunset clause in using the 404 permits.

Project Manager Benz informed Councilmember Jones that the authority doesn't have a 404 permit. It has a water withdrawal permit. It's a 10-year permit, and the authority can go back and revise it. The idea was that we only got permitted what EPD modified and what they anticipate we need up to that point with the idea that they will come back with a revised amendment. It's a 45-day process.

Councilmember Jones stated that the authority could enter an agreement with Coweta, build out infrastructure, and over a 5–10-year period, the revenues the authority receives either from water sales or will generate enough money to have another two points of withdrawal if necessary. Then, the authority will be able to almost cut away from Atlanta completely and use them as backup for catastrophic events.

Project Manager Benz stated that it will depend on what the need is. The authority must remember that Coweta has been permitted to meet their 50-year needs. At some point, if they go ahead and start supplying this area with water, then they will have to go get water from somewhere else, or the authority will have to do some type of sharing.

Chairman Boddie asked, did the situation with them buying water from Griffin ever come up?

Project Manager Benz stated that they're on the back end of that contract.

GM Farmer stated that the meeting lasted nearly 40 minutes. There were concerns, however, they're receptive.

Project Manager Benz asked the board if they would like Krebs to send a general services contract to Attorney Davenport for the board to review.

Vice-Chair Fillingame believes it's going to be pivotal, especially since the cities will have to assess what it's going to take to tie in all that information. It is going to be important and relevant, and the authority needs a resource to assist with that as the board goes with the possibility of a MOU.

Project Manager Benz informed GM Farmer that Krebs conducted the authority's PER and Coweta's modeling. They know where the pressure zones are for the new intake coming through, and if the authority would need booster pumps etc.

Attorney Davenport is seeking direction from the board with moving forward with receiving a MOU from Coweta.

The motion to move forward with the MOU from Coweta Water & Sewer Authority was made by Mayor Williams and seconded by Vice-Chair Fillingame.

**Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried**

#### **E. Board Member Comments:**

- Mayor Williams stated that this being Chairman Boddie's last official meeting with the authority, I want to thank you for what you have done over these past 30 years especially being a part of the authority. I want to thank you for your service, not just to Palmetto or the Authority, but to South Fulton and Metro Atlanta as a whole. I want to thank you for your leadership, mentorship, and I'm looking forward to continuing the work with you. Thank you, Councilmember Miller for your service. It means a lot to all of us.

- Attorney Davenport: 1998-1999, we were all talking about what could we do to try to break away from Atlanta as water concern. The people back then were just as passionate about that topic as you are today. But none more so than Chairman Boddie. We hit roadblock after roadblock, just to get the legislation through the general assemble. At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour we had to do some changing around of the language and I think it had to do with the three cities. Thanks to Jim Martin and Chairman Boddie's efforts, he pushed it though over Atlanta's objection. It got past then, the fun really started. We learned everything. A lot is because of this authority. Every time an obstacle came up, we were able to stand it. I commend you, Mayor Boddie, for all your efforts, for your foresight, and all the energy you put into it and it will never go unnoticed.
- City Manager Phillips-It's been a privilege. I've been hearing the name "Clark Boddie" since I was a teenager. I got to the county and got a chance to experience some of Chairman Boddie's wisdom. Over the years, my respect for you have really grown. You're from a generation of leaders who had a real impact in the south. I want to say thank you. You've been transformational.
- Mayor Avery-Thank you so much again. You been a friend ever since I became mayor of Fairburn. You gave me advice and I want to say thank you. Thank you for the impact you made in South Fulton alone.
- Vice-Chair Fillingame- My father told me something once, when it comes down to challenges, you have to be like water in a river, you go over the rock, go under the rock, you go around it and you do whatever you have to do to get there. And I think that you have manifested that in terms of your service to this authority and I certainly would be remised if I didn't thank you as well. What a time! I think, and I hope when you look back and when all is said and done your work would speak for you. It's an interesting time. We've grown by 30 percent. The need is great and I'm absolutely thankful for the work you have done and the support you have given the authority.
- Councilmember Jones- I remember chairing this authority and you were vice-chair. It was in the middle of the Bank of America deal, but Chairman Boddie was right there at every meeting. He would call and provide advice. It was a difficult road at that point, but I thank you for standing by me and helping me to navigate during that time period.
- Councilmember Miller- You're a walking wisdom and I'm glad to have serve and learned so much from you.
- Vice-Chair Fillingame-Thank you so much, Councilmember Miller. It's been great working with you. We appreciate the work and support you given us on this journey and we're absolutely thankful.
- Mayor Avery-Thank you, Councilmember Miller. It's an honor to have worked with you. As elected officials and appointed officials, it's hard to find people to work.

**VII.** The motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm was made by Vice-Chair Fillingame and seconded by Councilman Jones. **Vote: 7-0; Motion Carried**



Sonja Fillingame, Chair



Jessica Davis, Secretary