

VIRGINIA:

At a regular meeting of the King George County Service Authority Board of Directors, held on Tuesday, the 21st day of September 2010, at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Revercomb Building at 10459 Courthouse Drive, King George, Virginia:

PRESENT: Dale W. Sisson, Jr., Chairman
Cedell Brooks, Jr., Vice-Chairman
Joseph W. Grzeika, Member
John P. LoBuglio, Member
James F. Mullen, Member
A. Travis Quesenberry, County Administrator
Matthew J. Britton, County Attorney

The Chairman, Mr. Sisson, called the meeting to order.

Mr. Brooks provided the Invocation.

Mr. Mullen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Amendment to the Agenda:

On a motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Mullen, and carried unanimously, each member voting as follows: Mr. Sisson Aye; Mr. Brooks Aye; Mr. Grzeika Aye; Mr. LoBuglio Aye; and Mr. Mullen Aye, the King George County Service Authority Board of Directors amended the agenda to include, under "Action Items", the adoption and appropriation of the King George County Service Authority FY2010/2011 Capital Improvement Fund Budget revenues and expenditures in the amount of \$110,000.

Public Comment

The Chairman opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Ruby Brabo, 16843 Fairfax Drive, and Vice-President of Chatham Village Homeowners Association, presented a concern about water usage and being charged in advance for water consumption. Ms. Brabo cited her personal reason for concern as she had closed her home for the summer on June 20, 2010 and upon returning on August 14, 2010, found that she had received the highest water bill ever after having been home for only 12 days during the billing cycle of June 23rd to August 25th. She noted that she had no leaks and upon investigation discovered she had been billed for water yet to be consumed, with the meter reading over what was indicated on the bill. Ms. Brabo cited the Service Authority regulations on billing, Section 12, Part B, number 5, stating that each water bill should contain whether the reading was based on an estimated amount or the actual consumption. She further noted that Section 10, Part C, Number 3 states that when there is a defective meter, the bill would be based on an average consumption shown on the last three consecutive bills, as well as Section 12, F, where it states what the estimated bill would contain. Ms. Brabo further explained her average usage for the last three billing cycles. She also cited Mr. Cepeda Long's bill, also a Chatham Village resident on Richmond Court, where he was billed in advance for 141,000 gallons of water. There was no notation on Mr. Long's bill stating that this was an estimated consumption figure. She continued by stating that Mr. Thomas had explained that the charge for the sewer is based on a formula as there is no meter in place to calculate this usage. Ms. Brabo stated that the homeowners are being billed at 100% of water intake for sewer, which she considered

grossly unfair. Ms. Brabo noted, according to the Service Authority regulations under Section K, Part 12, that an abatement refund would be provided for the public sewer should there be an estimated bill.

Mr. Steve Durnford, 4049 Chatham Drive and President of the Chatham Village Homeowners Association, spoke on behalf of the homeowners and shared concerns over estimates and/or inaccurate representation of meter readings, and what appears to be 100% charge for sewer based on consumption of water. Most of the concerns came from utility bills that do not accurately reflect what the homeowners' readings show. Mr. Durnford's concern was that the Service Authority's readings do not reflect whether they are estimates or actual readings, as the Service Authority regulations require. He felt the Service Authority was not following its own regulations or maintaining the meters properly and questioned why the abatement formula was not followed to reduce charges by estimated amounts of water not entering the sewer system. Mr. Durnford cited several sections of Section 12 of the Service Authority Regulations which he felt were not being followed by the Service Authority.

Mr. Larry Patterson of 4384 Berkeley Court in Chatham Village addressed the same issues and was unhappy about receiving ridiculously high bills for 40,000-50,000 gallons of water usage. He stated that he could not afford to use his irrigation system and had lost most of his landscaping due to the high cost of water usage. Mr. Patterson wanted the Board to know that no leaks had been found at his house and expressed his hope that this issue can be resolved.

There being no further comment, the Chairman closed that portion of the meeting.

The Board members commented on the issues raised during the public comment period, with Mr. Brooks stating that the problem with the billing definitely needed to be investigated. Mr. Grzeika agreed that an independent investigation needed to be done as this was a problem which might have internal implications. He suggested the County Administrator and the Deputy County Administrator look at the bills, the meters, and do some auditing to provide the Board with some answers at the next Board meeting. Mr. Grzeika explained that the sewer portion of the bill is based on 100% of gallons of water used times the adopted sewer rate.

Mr. Mullen agreed that an investigation was needed and noted that the Dahlgren District had experienced some problems with water usage totals, but not to the extent that he had heard during public comment.

Mr. LoBuglio supported an independent investigation and noted that possibly the rest of the County's customer base should be checked to see if similar problems are happening in other locations.

Mr. Brooks again stated that an investigation would be beneficial and that it should be conducted by staff other than the Service Authority in order to provide an independent study. Mr. Grzeika reiterated that the County Administrator and Deputy County Administrator should conduct the investigation and should be done throughout the entire system. He felt it was not a water usage problem, but meter readings which are not correct.

Mr. Sisson expressed his gratitude to the residents for bringing this problem to the Board's attention.

SA-09-04 – Consent Agenda

On a motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Mullen, and carried unanimously, each member voting as follows: Mr. Sisson Aye; Mr. Brooks Aye; Mr. Grzeika Aye; Mr. LoBuglio Aye; and Mr. Mullen Aye, the King George County Service Authority Board of Directors approved the Consent Agenda, as presented, which included the following:

Authorized the issuance of warrants against the FY10-11 KGCSA Operating Fund in the total amount of \$47,921.18

Authorized the issuance of warrants against the FY10-11 KGCSA Capital Reserve Projects Fund in the total amount of \$493,952.61

SA-09-05 – County Attorney Report

The County Attorney had no report.

Action Items:

Adoption and Appropriation of the King George County Service Authority FY2010/2011 Capital Improvement Fund Budget Revenues and Expenditures in the amount of \$110,000

Ms. Harper noted that on June 15, 2010, the Board adopted and appropriated \$61,000 for Capital Projects, but the entire Capital Improvement Fund budget should have been \$171,000. Ms. Harper requested that the remaining \$110,000 be appropriated, noting that the funds have not been appropriated or identified for any specific project. The amount would be placed in the Capital Projects line item for future use, with prior approval being required by the Board of Directors before funds are expended.

On a motion by Mr. Grzeika, seconded by Mr. Brooks, and carried unanimously, each member voting as follows: Mr. Sisson Aye; Mr. Brooks Aye; Mr. Grzeika Aye; Mr. LoBuglio Aye; and Mr. Mullen Aye, the King George County Service Authority Board of Directors adopted and appropriated the King George County Service Authority FY2010/2011 Capital Improvement Fund Budget Revenues and Expenditures in the total amount of \$110,000, as presented.

Discussion Items:

SA-09-06 – General Manager’s Report

Mr. Thomas presented the following items of interest to the Board:

- **Line Break on Memorial Day weekend:** The Service Authority checked the bacteriological sampling records before and after the line break, and all were absent from any contamination. The Service Authority has determined that an immediate sample taken within 24 hours is the best way to respond after any breakages and will be following that procedure.
- **Notification of Service Authority Customers through either City Watch or King George Alert:** There are some issues with City Watch and King George Alert relating to unlisted numbers. Improvements have been made to the King George Alert to better identify a specific area to be alerted. The Service Authority will be working with Information Technology staff to allow the Service Authority to have immediate access to put information on the County’s website concerning line breaks, outages, etc. Mr. Sisson inquired about time line for getting service implemented through KG Alert and/or City Watch and encouraged customers to sign up for these services. The Board requested Mr. Thomas come back to the Board at the next meeting with a proposed timeline for implementation of this notification process.
- **Drought Management Well Information:** Each of the Service Authority wells monitored has static level, but has recovered within an hour to that level. Monitoring will continue on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Brooks inquired as to the situation in Chatham Village regarding the utility bill readings. Mr. Thomas felt an independent evaluation of the process was a good recommendation. He had spoken directly with one of the concerned citizens regarding the situation following the public comment period.

Closed Session:

On a motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Grzeika, and carried unanimously, each member voting as follows: Mr. Sisson Aye; Mr. Brooks Aye; Mr. Grzeika Aye; Mr. LoBuglio Aye; and Mr. Mullen Aye, the King George County Service Authority Board of Directors went into closed session pursuant to State Code Section 2.2-3711(A)7 for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel regarding hearing held by DEQ regarding the Oakland Park and Purkins Corner Waste Water Treatment Plants, and invited the County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator, General Manager, and County Attorney.

On a motion by Mr. Brooks, seconded by Mr. Mullen, and carried unanimously, each member voting as follows: Mr. Sisson Aye; Mr. Brooks Aye; Mr. Grzeika Aye; Mr. LoBuglio Aye; and Mr. Mullen Aye, the King George County Service Authority Board of Directors returned to public session and certified that only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia law, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting on a motion by Mr. Grzeika, seconded by Mr. Mullen, and carried unanimously.