



Grayson County Public Service Authority

P.O. Box 217, Independence, VA 24348

October 20, 2022

5:50 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES Of the Public Service Authority

Members Present

John S. Fant
Michael S. Hash
Kenneth R. Belton
R. Brantley Ivey
Tracy A. Anderson

Staff Present

Paul Hoyle
Mitch Smith
Leesa Gayheart

Member(s) Absent

CALL TO ORDER

- Mr. Fant called the meeting to order to discuss the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program authorization.

NEW BUSINESS

- Virginia LIHWAP Distribution Program: this is a new program (similar to the heating assistance program) which is a federally funded program that helps households pay for drinking water and wastewater for their homes. This program will help eligible customers experiencing financial burden pay their past due home water bill – this is a one-time program in which \$22.5M has been awarded to the State of Virginia – once money is gone the program will go away unless continuing funding can be found – expects it to last 2-3 months – currently we don't have anyone that qualifies – needs permission from the Board to sign up for this because when someone comes to us with a need (risk of water being cut off), then the County can do our due diligence to make sure the need is genuine (used all other possible resources) – once that has been determined and the requirements are met, an email will be sent to the State with customer's information and the state will pay the County through ACH and then we would apply that money towards the account that's in arrears – if the County does sign up for this program, we (the County) has to agree to not turn off their water for 90 days – it's a one time assistance with a maximum

to forgive of \$2,500 – if we wait for the meeting in November it could possibly hinder someone that would need this service – there is no deadline just a limitation on the funding – will use the same screening for this as they do for the heating assistance program (County does not have a utility bill for the heating assistance program) – the State has contracted DSS (Department of Social Services) but we would manage it as the PSA (local) – it is publicized – if the Board does pass this we would notify the Treasurer – approving the go ahead tonight would get the application in sooner rather than later – no down side for the County to do this – water customer can only do it one time – no loss of funds at all for the County since it would be turned over to the State and they would pay the amount due. Mr. Anderson made the motion to approve to sign up for the recommendation to move forward with the program; duly seconded by Mr. Hash. Discussion took place and Mr. Hoyle noted this document will be signed online and also noted that our Social Services Department hasn't heard of this yet. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

- Mr. Ivey made the motion to adjourn; duly seconded by Mr. Belton. Motion carried 5-0.