

**MINUTES FOR  
ATHENS MUNICIPAL WATER AUTHORITY  
REGULAR SESSION  
April 8, 2015**

The Board of Directors of the Athens Municipal Water Authority ("AMWA") met in Regular Session on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the Hart-Morris Conservation Center of the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center with the following members present and constituting and quorum, to-wit:

Stephen R. Sparkman  
Donald A Foster  
Bill Casey, Executive Director

David Thomas  
Mike Peek

Others present included:

Martin Bennett, AMWA Attorney  
Darlene Forshage, AMWA Staff  
An Audience of Concerned Citizens

Tyler Hendrickson, of Velvin & Weeks  
Corey Frentress, of Velvin & Weeks

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Director Sparkman.

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

n/a

**CONSENT OF AGENDA**

Motion was made by Director Peek and seconded by President Sparkman to approve the Agenda of the Regular Session on April 8, 2015.

**MINUTES**

Motion was made by Director Thomas and seconded by Director Peek to approve the Minutes of the Regular Session on March 8, 2015.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee reports were given as follows:

- a. **Lake Athens:** President Sparkman reported that Lake Athens is very full. He added that AMWA continues to make progress with regard to the Lake Athens Marina and would like to see the Marina properties operate as one entity and that they are currently receiving a lot of qualified responses. He also discussed how well the Fishing Tournaments are doing on Lake Athens and is glad to see so much participation and how well organized the tournaments are.

b. **Finance:** President Sparkman deferred to Darlene Forshage in Ed Gatlin's absence. Darlene reported that the approximate 5.5m in the AMWA accounts is distributed throughout five accounts, three business checking accounts and two CD Accounts (noted that the two CD Accounts will mature in July). Darlene also stated that the City of Athens is sending out the last billing and that AMWA is setting up all accounts for the 2016 billing cycle. Payments for 2015 should all be received by June 30, 2015. Darlene noted that the County Tax Receipts are coming in very steadily as noted on the reconciliation detail.

c. **Water Development:** Director Foster stated that he had had several meetings with Velvin & Weeks regarding the Powder River Track as we try to continue to develop our ground water resources. The main issue is getting electrical power to the property itself and a decision has been made to enter the property via FM 2495, the main entrance into Powder River.

Foster also stated that Corey Frentress would elaborate on the Powder River electrical and road projects.

Also noted that the production well at the plant has now been approved, Well#3 has been approved by TCEQ and is ready to go online thus allowing us to use our ground water resources and reducing the outflow from Lake Athens.

Testing was done to ensure that 750 gallons per minute was being produced. Velvin & Weeks has sent the water samples to a Hydrologist to ensure we are making a good decision.

d. **City/AMWA Relations:** Director Thomas acknowledged Philip Rodriguez, the new City Administrator and Jerry Don Vaught, Mayor of the City of Athens and welcomed them to the AMWA meeting. He reiterated that he hopes the relationship between the City of Athens and AMWA continues to improve.

e. **Public Awareness:** President Sparkman informed the members that the new AMWA website has well exceeded expectations and continues to do so. His desire is to keep the website "informational" for all.

f. **Economic Impact:** Director Peek thanked everyone for their attendance and stated that public awareness is key to keeping everyone "in the know."

g. **Executive Director:** Steve Sparkman introduced Bill Casey as the new Executive Director of AMWA. Bill Casey thanked the Board for their confidence in him. He then announced his appreciation for Darlene Forshage and her impending retirement on May 1, 2015. He also announced the Heidi Harris is the AMWA Officer Manager and the return of Bill Magee as the Lake Patrol Officer. Bill vowed to be "hands on" with all inspections to free up Bill Magee for law enforcement beginning April 13, 2015. Executive Director Casey also advised that we would be adding a FAQ's section to our AMWA website.

### **APPROVAL OF GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT**

Motion was made by Director Thomas and seconded by Director Foster to extend the Ground Lease Agreement with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF PARTNERSHIP ATHENS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

President Sparkman presented an overview of the annexation project contingent on several items (i.e. AEDC to \$50,000 for all professional work and AMWA was asked to pay \$295,000 for the sewer work).

Director Peek asked, how can AMWA do sewer? President Sparkman discussed statutes and used TFFC as an example. Martin Bennett confirmed by reading the statute of Water Code.

Director Thomas presenting the question, would AMWA need to be the contractor or can we just provide the funding? Clarification from President Sparkman was made that AMWA would provide the funding only.

Motion was made by Director Peek and seconded by Director Thomas to partner with Athens Economic Development in regards to a Proposed Joint Annexation Project adjacent to the City Limits of Athens. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY AT LAKE ATHENS MARINA**

President Sparkman deferred to Martin Bennett. Mr. Bennett asked if AMWA would counter offer at the lowest bid of \$10,000 for the personal property located in the Lake Athens Marina buildings. He also stated that the offer would be good until Friday, April 17, 2015.

Motion was made by Director Thomas and seconded by Director Foster to purchase all personal property located at the Lake Athens Marina that was owned by the prior tenant. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO RAW WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES AGREEMENT WITH TPWD**

Motion was made by Director Thomas and seconded by President Sparkman to approve the amendment to the Raw Water Supply Facilities Agreement between AMWA and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department regarding a new easement between the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center and Lake Athens. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF CHANGES MADE TO THE AMWA RULES & REGULATIONS**

Changes were noted (i.e. citations will appear in Athens Municipal Court and Ingress/Egress fees). Motion was made by Director Thomas and seconded by Director Foster to approve changes to the AMWA Rules & Regulations. Motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF 2013-2014 AUDIT REVIEW**

Marlin Smith of Holdredge Shaddox & Habibelahian, CPA's reviewed statements, standards of the AMWA Financials. It is their opinion the financial statements dated March, 2015 for the year ending September 30, 2014 presented fairly and stated that AMWA is in a good position, they foresee no major problems and agree with AMWA statements.

### **CONSIDERATION FOR PAYMENT OF STATEMENTS**

Motion was made by President Sparkman and seconded by Director Foster to pay all statements that have been presented to the Water Authority. The Motion carried unanimously to authorize payments of all bills that were presented to the Board.

### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Tyler Hendrickson and Corey Fentress of Velvin & Weeks Engineering reported on the status of all AMWA current and proposed projects. Discussions resulting from Mr. Hendrickson and Mr. Fentress' reports led to the following motions:

- A motion was made by Director Foster and seconded by Director Peek to approve a bid for the 2015 Property Maintenance Program for Powder River Tract, Franks Tract, Oakwood Property, and Lake Athens Dam Property to Joe Carr for \$22,603.80. The motion carried by the following vote: Motion carried unanimously.
- A motion was made by Director Peek and seconded by President Sparkman to approve plans and specifications and authorizing Velvin & Weeks Consulting Engineers, Inc. to advertise for bids for Proposed Road at Powder River Well and Pump Station. Motion carried unanimously.
- A motion was made by President Sparkman and seconded by Director Foster approving power supply to the Powder River tract and authorize payment for the new service to Oncor @ \$170,000. Motion carried unanimously.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO EXPRESS ITEMS OF CONCERN**

Several lake property owners expressed concern over the methods used to gather information regarding water usage from Lake Athens.

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### ADJOURN

Motion was made by Director Foster and seconded by President Sparkman to adjourn.  
The motion carried unanimously.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** on this 13 day of May, 2015.



Stephen R. Sparkman, President

ATTEST:



Donald A. Foster, Secretary