



## Grayson County Public Service Authority

P.O. Box 217, Independence, VA 24348

June 13, 2024

### **MEETING MINUTES Of the Public Service Authority**

#### **Members Present**

R. Brantley Ivey  
Michael S. Hash  
Tracy A. Anderson  
Mary E. Dickenson Tomlinson  
Mitchell D. Cornett

#### **Staff Present**

Stephen A. Boyer  
Mitchell L. Smith  
Paul D. Hoyle

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

- Mr. Ivey called the meeting to order. Mr. Hash made the motion to approve the agenda/consent agenda; duly seconded by Mr. Cornett. Motion carried 4-0.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

- A public hearing to receive comments regarding a proposed increase to water rate based on a memo sent by the City of Galax to Grayson County for the purchase of the Fairview and Oldtown Water systems and the adoption of a proposed Ordinance establishing user rates for the Fairview and Oldtown Water Systems. Mr. Anderson made the motion to go into the public hearing; duly seconded by Mr. Cornett. Motion carried 4-0.
  - Ronald Taylor of Cherry Ln – concerned about the price increase
  - David Petty of Skyline Hwy – glad to have county water – concerned about the price increase and why so much

Mr. Anderson made the motion to come out of the public hearing; duly seconded by Mr. Hash. Motion carried 5-0. Discussion took place and it was noted the proposed increase 35% is a pass through which means the county has to charge more – county is operating at a deficit and the City of Galax is charging more – there are 450 users in Oldtown which is costing the taxpayer \$175,000 – City of Galax has an approximate \$16M water project in the works and they are increasing our rates, the county increased the user rates based on what the City of Galax increased ours – county is still operating in a deficit which will

be about \$70K this next year – discussions took place with the City of Galax to see about reducing the rates but their argument was that they have maintained a high tax rate for their citizens and lower water rates but the negotiations have not worked – their watershed runs through Grayson and Grayson provides the maintenance – the City of Galax is also doing some looking to see how feasible it would be for the City of Galax to take on our customers – the City of Galax is also looking into USDA grant funding but due to their low water rate, they don't qualify for the grants – county may possibly look into alternate sources for water.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Ordinance – Establishing User Rates for the Fairview and Oldtown Water Systems For Water Service  
Mr. Hash made the motion to approve the Ordinance (listed below); duly seconded by Mr. Anderson. Roll call vote as follows: Tracy A. Anderson – aye; Michael S. Hash – aye; Mitchell D. Cornett – aye; Mary E. Dickenson Tomlinson – aye; R. Brantley Ivey – aye.

### **ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF GRAYSON, VIRGINIA ESTABLISHING USER RATES FOR THE FAIRVIEW AND OLDTOWN WATER SYSTEMS FOR WATER SERVICE**

Whereupon, after due advertisement pursuant to §15.2-107 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, the Board of Supervisors did conduct a public hearing to consider the amendment of an Ordinance setting user rates for the purchase of water supplied by the Fairview and Oldtown Community Water System;

Upon such public hearing and after due consideration, the Public Service Authority hereby adopts the following amended Ordinance establishing user rates for such system:

**BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED**, the County of Grayson hereby adopts this amended Ordinance and schedule of fees for water users purchasing water from the Grayson County Fairview and Oldtown Community Water System as follows:

**Residential Service:** \$78.00 bi-monthly for the first 4,000 gallons purchased and \$7.43 per 1,000 gallons thereafter.

The Public Service Authority hereby adopts this amended Ordinance setting forth the rates stated herein on this the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024 after a public hearing duly advertised as provided by law.

The Public Service Authority shall adopt rules and regulations for the Grayson County Fairview and Oldtown Community Water System.

This Ordinance shall be effective immediately and continue in effect until further revised or amended. The Public Service Authority of Grayson County, Virginia, after public notice, public hearing, and consideration of the best interests of the public health, safety, and welfare, that this Ordinance of Grayson County, Virginia, shall be amended and adopted this day 13<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024 in the County of Grayson, Virginia

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
R. Brantley Ivey, Chair  
Grayson County Public Services Authority

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen A. Boyer, Clerk  
Grayson County Public Services Authority

**CERTIFICATE OF VOTES**

The record of the roll-call vote by the members of the Grayson County Public Service Authority on the foregoing Ordinance, duly adopted upon a roll-call vote at a public meeting held on June 13<sup>th</sup> 2024, as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Abstain</u>	<u>Absent</u>
R. Brantley Ivey				
Michael S. Hash				
Tracy A. Anderson				
Mary E. Dickenson Tomlinson				
Mitchell D. Cornett				

**PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**

- Barry Liddle of Louisville Ln – inquired about the water on Louisville Lane and also about the notifications regarding the meetings
- Debbie Liddle of Louisville Ln – didn’t speak – same request as Mr. Liddle
- Heather Litton of Louisville Ln – didn’t speak – same request as Mr. Liddle

Mr. Ivey noted that the county is committed to investing \$500K in the water project on Louisville Ln – at the same time the county is losing money – money has been appropriated. Mr. Hoyle stated that the engineering firm has completed the county permitting, health department permitting with the only permit still outstanding is the Department of Transportation which has gone through the first cycle and anticipate the final being done within the next couple of weeks – once that is finalized, the county will sign off and put it up for bid anticipating it will be out for bid for 30 days with a 2 – 3 week review period afterwards – expect to hire a contractor shortly thereafter – looking to break ground the first part of September – project should take around 6 weeks if all goes well. Regarding the meeting notices, Mrs. Osborne noted that the county advertises notices in the paper, also places them on the county facebook page and the county website – PSA does not meet every month but the public is welcome to call the office to see if the PSA will be meeting.

**ADJOURN**

Mrs. Tomlinson made the motion to adjourn; duly seconded by Mr. Anderson. Motion carried 5-0.