

A regular meeting of the Board of Members of Rapidan Service Authority was held on September 19, 2024, at the Orange County Public Safety Building, Orange, VA.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM. A quorum was established followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

- Present: Members: Coppage, Elliott, Johnson, Marshall, Voorhees
- Staff: G.M. Clemons, D.O. Jarrell, D.A. Gaskins
- Attorney: Stefan Calos
- Guests: Dave Davies

After a change to the proposed agenda moving item I (Closed Session) under New Business to the second spot directly following item A (Public Comment), the agenda for the meeting was adopted on a motion by Voorhees, seconded by Coppage, and passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The minutes of the July 18, 2024, meeting were approved on a motion by Coppage, seconded by Marshall, and unanimously passed on a voice vote.

During the opportunity for public comment, Dave Davies spoke. He expressed concern there is no secondary water supply source for RSA, a problem highlighted during the recent water contamination problem. He indicated that the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has recently changed the local and regional water supply planning regulations and that regional planning divisions are being established throughout the state. RSA is in Northern Piedmont I and counties and water authorities will be given the opportunity to appoint a representative and alternate to represent them on the committee. He challenged the Board to select an individual who is forward-thinking and who would especially be sensitive to the needs of eastern Orange County since that is the area of greatest population and dependence upon RSA's services.

On a motion by Johnson, seconded by Marshall, the Board voted unanimously by voice vote to go into closed session to discuss items related to the consideration of acquisition of property for a public purpose and consultation with legal counsel (VA code § 2.2-3711). The Board went into closed session at 2:07 p.m.; when it reentered into public session at 3:13 p.m., it confirmed by roll call that the matters discussed were only those falling within the parameters established by the Code of Virginia for closed sessions of a public meeting.

The Board then took up customer requests. The Board is in receipt of a request from Eric & Nicholle Stancell. It is looking into the matter and will respond once it has had the opportunity to finish doing so.

There was no board comment.

G.M. Clemons then updated the Board regarding the recent issue in the Wilderness water treatment system. In discussing the situation with the pump shop on September 4, 2024, RSA discovered that a catastrophic pump failure had occurred – much worse than anything normally dealt with. The shop indicated that during a pump failure, the pump might lose a cup of oil – this pump might have lost as much

as two gallons. RSA reported this to the Virginia Department of Health that day. VDH continued its investigation into the source of the odor, working with a Texas laboratory with taste and odor experts. These collaborated with Virginia Tech and after two rounds of testing determined that food grade mineral oil was the probable source of the odor. VDH is wrapping up its investigation and should be issuing its findings and recommendations within the next few weeks.


G.M. Clemons then discussed DEQ's new regional water supply planning guidelines. As Mr. Davies mentioned earlier, regional planning units have been established and RSA has been requested to provide a representative and alternate to work on the issue. A copy of the September 9, 2024, letter notifying RSA of the changes was provided to the Board for informational purposes.

D.A. Gaskins presented the annual Town of Orange proposed water rate adjustment to the Board. The Town is increasing its rate from \$4.215 to \$4.713 per 1000 gallons. This is an 11.8% increase but appears to be justified based on the provided documentation from the Town. RSA usually determines its Town of Gordonsville and Route 15 rates as soon as it receives the new Town of Orange rate but is waiting for the completion of the NewGen rate study before doing so this year.

G.M. Clemons then gave his report. Finances are as anticipated for this time of the year. G.M. Clemons requested that the October meeting be moved from October 17 to October 16, 2024, as he would be unable to attend on the 17th and the Board agreed to his request.

There was no additional attorney report.

With no further business to discuss, on a motion by Coppage the meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m. on a unanimous voice vote.


Chairman