

HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION
November 17, 2020 – 5:00 P.M.

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a work session on November 17, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Heard County Administration Building to discuss Water Resources and other matters as needed. In attendance at the meeting were Chairman Lee Boone, District 1 Commissioner Larry Hooks, District 2 Commissioner James Perry, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Larry Hammond, and District 5 Commissioner David Walls. Present from the Heard County Water Authority Board was Heard County Water Authority Director Lori Cook, Alvin Ginn, and James Ray Gosdin. Chairman Boone opened the work session by stating that he did not want to send questions to the Heard County Water Authority (HCWA) from the public without some understanding of how things are going at the HCWA and understanding that the water authority is a separate government entity from the county. Commissioner Perry stated that the public was concerned about why the City of Franklin had power, but the Heard County Water Authority Treatment Plant did not. Mrs. Cook, director of the water authority stated that Old Field Road where the treatment plant is located is on Carroll EMC. Commissioner Perry also addressed the overall status of the entire water system, he stated that patch jobs were not holding and leaks were reoccurring. Commissioner Perry asked the water authority representatives what the plans for the water system are if there is another incident where the water authority did not have power. Ms. Cook, Director of the Heard County Water Authority stated in 2016 the water authority needed a generator, and Chairman Boone had been able to find one, and when the water authority got it, it would not connect and work with the system. Ms. Cook also discussed the current incident when the water authority was without power for 21 hours. Ms. Cook stated she had reached out to Chief Wirth and he was extremely helpful in starting the process of getting assistance with a generator. Commissioner

Perry asked the water authority representatives about the condition of the service lines, and Ms. Cook responded in the last few months, there have been staffing changes and things are being taken care of better. Chairman Boone commented about the old generator and stated there were emails about the reducer that would be installed, and it would cost around \$90,000.00 to get the generator ready to connect. Chairman Boone informed the audience that all fire stations have backup generators as well as the vehicle maintenance department. Chairman Boone spoke to the water authority representatives a few years ago when they came before the Board of Commissioners about upgrading the water plant, he remembered that they chose Plan B out of the options offered, and the Board agreed to allocate funding. After that Chairman Boone stated that he was bothered by the fact the water authority was given estimates, but the lowest bid far exceeded what had been estimated. Mr. Ginn stated if the decision had been his he would have terminated the relationship, but due to the water authority being so involved in the project already, they did not want to leave the engineer. Chairman Boone stated with there being so many setbacks, he felt the water authority should have come back before the Board of Commissioner and given an update. Ms. Cook gave some background about coming to the water authority and realizing that there are almost as many waterlines in Heard County as there are in Carroll. Ms. Cook also stated the water system had never been maintained and she was trying to change that. Commissioner Perry asked what does the water authority's five-year plan look like? Ms. Cook the water authority is doing well now but may be looking at trouble in the future. Ms. Cook also mentioned the future projects which included, the CDBG project, businesses coming into the county, and possible upgrade to the Pea Ridge Road Water Tower. Ms. Cook said the water authority is doing well budget wise, but they have loans that may last 25 more years. Ms. Cook also stated in the future is the water plant upgrade and waster water upgrade projects are

next. Chairman Boone stated we need to ensure we get backup power to the water plant as soon as possible. Commissioner Walls agreed saying everyone needed to make the generator the priority in the water plant project. Ms. Cook said she would call the next day and find out if the generator could be priority in the project. Ms. Cook also said they had people offering generators, but they were not 1,000kw generators they could use. Chairman Boone stated he wants to have a plan for now without looking at the project ahead. Chairman Boone also stated everyone needed to work together to do something now even if the county must help the water authority purchase a generator.

On motion (Hammond) and second (Walls), the Board unanimously agreed to close the work session.

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned.