

SCHLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, May 23, 2018

The Schley County Board of Commissioners held a joint meeting with City Council and representatives from Atlanta Gas Light. Those in attendance were: Chairman Greg Barineau, Vice-Chairman Doug Jamieson, County Manager Bill Sawyer, County Clerk Kathy Bruer, City Manager Lynne McChargue, Mayor Leah Clark, Councilor Janet Ellis, Councilor Carlton Wilson, Councilor Chuck Sherwood, Councilor Jason Hoch, City Clerk Windy McGrother, Sheriff Shane Tondee, Fire Chief Duane Montgomery, Public Works Superintendent Mark Royal, Schley County Water Superintendent Art Barfield, Colby Hudson and Darrell Holbrook. Representatives from Atlanta Gas Light were: Scott Grogan, Superintendent, Construction Operations, Rick Ellis, Project Coordinator, and Cheryl Treadaway, Account Executive.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Greg Barineau called the meeting to order and welcomed all guests.

DISCUSSION

Greg asked Bill Sawyer to introduce today's meeting. Bill introduced, Scott Grogan, Cheryl Treadaway, and Rick Ellis.

Scott began by asking if everyone knew who the project was started. Everyone stated no. Cheryl stated that 3-4 years ago someone from Brad Farms, located on 271, called and asked about having natural gas run because he has chicken houses. Cheryl explained that she then contacted the USF (Universal Service Fund) who receives monies from manufacturing, commercial and some residential customers so companies like AGL can branch out. Once approved, Cheryl went to the Public Service Commissioner (PSC) to have Schley County set up as a Franchise. The Franchise goes all the way to Buck Creek. Afterwards, in year two, Cheryl began calling around to see if others were interested. Once she saw there was interest, she went back to the PSC for further approval. In January/February timeline Cheryl spoke to both Bill and Lynne. She explained that she would really like their help with getting into the manufacturing companies in Schley County.

Scott stated that he has applied for a permit with GDOT for the feed on 271, as well as the loop that will be made in the City. Once approved, they are ready to construct.

Doug stated that 911 has been approached about putting a regulator on their property. They were told in case of an emergency, everyone would have to evacuate ½ mile around that regulator. Doug explained that the 911 services 8-9 counties and there is no chance to shut them down; this would be detrimental to the system. Doug suggested that AGL should inquire about commercial or county property. The City shop area had been questioned, but again, that would be within ½ mile of 911. That will not work.

Scott stated that the pressure regulator property can be on a public right of way. It doesn't matter if it is on public or private property.

Scott stated that since we have never had natural gas in the area they their Corporate Security of Fire/Safety will get with our Fire/EMS on training. Tommy Sentsy will coordinate that training with Duane Montgomery. Duane stated they have had some training but AGL will do their own. Rick explained that the regulator station has higher pressure at transmission, but the pressure is less at distribution and even less when it goes to the customer.

They would like for the regulator to be off the highway, but it is not necessary. The regulators do have safeguards for protection. Rick stated it is not large like the one on 271. Duane asked if the shutoffs were handled electronically, and Scott said no. Duane asked if, in case of an emergency, would someone come from Atlanta, Scott said no, our first responder would be out of Macon. Shane asked if we would have shut-offs in the city; Rick stated yes, probably 4-5.

Jason asked what the lifespan was on the polypipe? Scott said they do not have an exact answer. He stated they are trenching the steel and boring the plastic.

Rick stated the steel lines are constantly protected from current lines. The pipe is special coated with fusion bonded epoxy.

Lynne asked if the city lost power and water, what would the response time be. Scott stated about the same as a telephone going out. There is no one locally who could do an emergency locate.

Leah asked how the gas was going to be expanded in the City. Scott explained there will be a loop around Ellaville; it is not set in stone yet, but they are close. Once a customer decides they want to connect to gas, lines will then be run down individual roads. As pipe goes in, flags will be displayed so everyone will know where the pipe is located. Colby asked could the County and City receive a copy of the map, so they will have a general idea of where the pipe will be.

Cheryl was asked how many contracted customers they have already. Cheryl stated they have some interest but have no commitments yet. Gary, at the peanut barn said he would commit if he could get it before June; obviously that won't be done this year but hopefully next. She has only contacted businesses at this point; later they will begin with residences. She said they cannot give anything concrete right now so it's not realistic to approach them. She stated the price of natural gas is about 1/3 the cost of propane.

Chuck Sherwood asked about the pressure levels. Rick stated that the steel pipe stops on Hwy 19 and the pressure there is approximately a max pressure of 300 PSI. The lines to the city will have approximately 58 lbs. PSI; once the add residential or business customers, the pressure will be regulated down much less than that. Chuck and Jason asked about the durability of the plastic pipe. Rick stated they have been using plastic since the mid-70's. He explained that polyethylene has been in use since the 70's and everything has been ok. He explained that polybutylene is not used in their systems; that pipe is a problem.

Chuck asked how the joints/unions were done. Rick stated that they use electronically fused pipe and some heat fused. Scott said they use a Federal Training program and all their installation employees are trained and operator certified. The test for destructive and nondestructive. He explained that their welds are x-rayed. They have very stringent quality control.

Rick stated they will have regulator stations on private easements off Holloway Road in Schley County and two in the city.

It was asked if a resident wanted to tap on, how would that joint be joined? Rick stated it would be either electronic or heat fused.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

Greg Barineau, Chairman

Kathy Bruer, County Clerk

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